NMHC OK until end of February. PAGE 2
Show-cause order vs ex-foreign workers of Dynasty discharged. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Kilili introduces permanent status bill

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has introduced two pieces of legislation—H.R. 559 and 560—last Wednesday in the 116th U.S. Congress in the hopes of providing permanent status to qualified individuals that have called the CNMI their second home.

The two bills hope to address the status of workers under the humanitarian parole program and employment authorization document, as well as long-term workers and foreign investors. The legislation also aims to save the status of close to 2,000 workers affected by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' termination of the CNMI categorical parole program last month.

See KILILI on Page 4

Velma encourages more women involvement

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Velma Palacios is hoping that more women would soon hold prominent posts in the local community, noting that the political landscape in the island of Guam has changed the past year with women occupying top positions

» IT&E exec is Business Person of the Year

"In Guam, it is the year of the women. They elected

See VELMA on Page 4

JON PEREZ
IT&E's Network Operations and Engineering director Velma Palacios is all smiles after winning the 2018 Business Person of the Year award while addressing the crowd in last Saturday's Silver Lining Gala at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.

Yutu govt distributions conclude

ERWIN ENCINARES
Volunteer CNMI government staff distribute relief goods at the Garapan Fishing Base over the weekend.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The final distributions for the Super Typhoon Yutu relief efforts concluded last Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The CNMI government along with members of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation over last Friday and Saturday distributed an assortment of items in response to Super Typhoon Yutu's ravage on Saipan and Tinian late October 2018.

"…We have all kinds of stuff for distributon," Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter said in an interview. He noted that Meals Ready-to-Eat, mosquito nets, cook-

See YUTU on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Retired CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz delivered a lighthearted eulogy to honor their younger brother, the late representative Francisco Santos Dela Cruz.

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ASIA
President Donald Trump said Saturday that "things are going very well with North Korea" and he plans a second summit with leader Kim Jong Un.

PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE
Standing on a 4,000-square-meter property that faces the Pacific Ocean, The Ladder Beach Restaurant held its grand opening last Wednesday signaling the start of one of the best seafood buffet offerings on island.

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Local

IN LIGHT OF PARTIAL FEDERAL GOVT SHUTDOWN

NMHC OK until end of February

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp, said that they would be able to sustain their housing programs as long as the current federal government shutdown is resolved before the end of February.

In light of the ongoing federal government shutdown, many federally funded agencies across the U.S. and its territories may not be able to carry out their programs due to lack of funding.

Fortunately, although NMHC may be affected if there is no resolution in the next month, there is nothing to worry about for now.

NMHC office manager/ procurement officer Jacob Muna told *Saipan Tribune* that NMHC was provided a two-month cushion before the shutdown in December 2018.

"Before the shutdown, they already provided that two-month cushion for Section 8 and the multi-family programs. What's going to happen, we don't know, but right now we're good until the end of February, anything after that we're not sure…We're fine for now, we shouldn't be worried yet," he said.

The federal government entered a shutdown due to a dispute over border wall funding. Funding that would be used to build a wall border between the United States and Mexico.

According to various media outlets, President Donald Trump failed to agree to a continuing resolution passed by the U.S Senate that would have averted a partial government shutdown and kept the full federal government running through Feb. 8, 2019.

House Republicans later passed a bill that included $5.7 billion funding for the wall, but the measure failed in the Senate.

As a result, roughly one-quarter of the government ran out of funding and was forced to close on Dec. 22, 2018.

The shutdown impacts several federal departments, including Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Homeland Security, Interior, State, Transportation and Treasury.

IT&E donates $100K to American Red Cross

ERWIN ENCINARES

Staff of IT&E pose for a photo as they present American Red Cross-NMI Chapter with their $100,000 donation Friday.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A telecommunications company on Saipan donated a significant amount of cash to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter over the weekend.

Telecommunications company IT&E donated Friday $100,000 to the local chapter of the American Red Cross in their office along Airport Road.

The significant donation, according to company general manager Rose Soledad, was in line with the company's mission to support local recovery efforts.

"We also donated solar lights distributed by the Governor's Office," she said, adding that "thousands" of solar lights were distributed, amounting to about $100,000 altogether.

"It's not just during times of calamity—we have always been community partners. We have always partnered with American Red Cross and other first responders," she said. Soledad pointed out that her company provided telephone and internet services to volunteers that entered the CNMI in response to Super Typhoon Yutu, which struck Saipan and Tinian late October 2018.

"Everybody has to be connected," she said.

In an interview, ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh noted that the donation was "huge."

"We are incredibly grateful for their generosity and their partners," Hirsh said. "This will be the fuel American Red Cross will use to provide humanitarian support for the community," he continued, adding that the organization does not get appropriations from the local government.

"We are really reliant on company's like IT&E to step up, particularly when there is a disaster like this and provide the financial resources we need to get the job done and help families that are suffering out there," he said.

When asked if the organization had any plans for the use of the money, Hirsh said it would be going back to the community.

"We have provided millions of dollars in assistance to families already, either through financial assistance or direct emergency supplies such as tarps, mosquito nets, water, food, and all these different things that we have given out," he said. "Their donation makes this possible," he added.

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Probable cause found against alleged child molester

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court found probable cause to warrant the arrest of an alleged child molester.

During a preliminary hearing last Thursday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo found probable cause to believe that the crime of sexual assault of a minor in the second degree was committed and that Peter Aldan may have committed it.

Govendo ordered 28-year-old Peter Aldan to answer to the charge made against him.

An arraignment for Aldan is set for Jan. 28, 2019.

Last Jan. 7, the Superior Court imposed a $10,000 bail on Aldan who is being charged with sexual assault of a minor in the second degree for allegedly sexually assaulting a 6-year-old girl.

Aldan was not able to post bail and remains in custody of the Department of Corrections.

According to detective David Hosono's declaration, Aldan was arrested at his household after a witness reported the sexual assault.

Hosono said that on Jan. 4, at about 10:22pm, police responded to a reported sexual assault of a minor complaint. At the scene, police were met with the victim's mother

The mother of the victim told police that at about 9:50pm on Jan. 4, she walked past one of the bedrooms in the household and observed Aldan on the bed with the victim.

The mother said that she saw Aldan pull his hand out of the victim's pants and raised her voice at Aldan asking him what he was doing.

Aldan told the mother that he was not doing anything, but the victim later told her mother that Aldan touched her inappropriately.

The mother said she then took her four children into their car and waited for police to arrive at the scene.

The victim is a relative of Aldan's girlfriend. Aldan's girlfriend was present for Aldan's preliminary hearing last Thursday.

Show-cause order vs ex-foreign workers of Dynasty discharged

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has relieved the former foreign workers of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino from her order directing them to explain why their lawsuit against the owner and management of Tinian Dynasty should not be dismissed for failure to prosecute.

In her order issued Thursday, Manglona said as the former workers have shown cause, her order to show-cause is therefore discharged.

Manglona said in response to the order to show cause, plaintiffs filed a motion for default judgment against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. and Mega Stars Overseas Limited, which will be heard on Feb. 14, 2019.

Mok

"The court finds that by filing the motion, plaintiffs have shown cause," the judge said.

Eric F. Dona and co-plaintiffs, through counsel Samuel Mok, recently asked the court to enter a default judgment against HKE, owner of Tinian Dynasty, and its management, Mega Stars Overseas Limited.

Mok is counsel for Dona and six other co-plaintiffs. There are 15 named plaintiffs in this case.

Mok said that, last Aug. 13, the District Court issued an order striking the answers of HKE and Mega Stars and entering default against each of the defendants as a result of their failure to retain legal counsel despite being given ample opportunity to do so.

Mok said his clients' claims for damages are not for a sum certain or a sum that can be calculated by the court's clerk.

"Accordingly, an evidentiary hearing is requested before final judgment is entered against the defendants," the lawyer said.

In the order to show cause, Manglona said that last Aug. 14, court's clerk entered a default of HKE and Mega Stars Overseas Ltd.

The judge said more than four months have passed and plaintiffs have not applied to the court for a default judgment, or taken any action in this case.

Last August, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood adopted Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy's recommendation to direct the clerk to enter a default judgment against HKE and Mega Stars.

Tydingco-Gatewood granted the workers' motion to strike the answers of HKE and Mega Stars.

Kennedy in her recommendation stated that it is well-established that "a corporation may appear in the federal courts only through licensed counsel."

In their lawsuit, Dona and co-plaintiffs alleged that HKE and Mega Stars lied to them about their immigration legal status.

Mok alleged that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied that the workers were legally authorized to work notwithstanding the denial of their CW-1 petitions.

In February 2018, Chun Wai Chan, a corporate representative of both HKE and Mega Stars, informed the court that Tinian Dynasty's casino operation stopped in August 2015, and when the hotel operation halted in March 2016 no more income could be generated since then.

Lawyer's motion to withdraw as counsel for clients in racketeering suit granted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has granted a motion filed by attorney Mark Scoggins to withdraw as counsel for a businessman and his former company as they allegedly failed to pay financial obligations to his law office in connection with their racketeering lawsuit.

In an order issued last Thursday, Manglona said she finds that plaintiffs Il Hwan Kim and KSA Corp. have failed substantially to fulfill their obligations to the Scoggins Law Firm regarding the firm's services.

Manglona said Kim and KSA have been given reasonable warning that the Scoggins Law Firm planned to withdraw as their counsel and that continued representation will result in an unreasonable financial burden on the firm.

Manglona directed the court's clerk to terminate the Scoggins Law Firm and its attorneys Mark A. Scoggins and Rene Holmes as counsel for Kim and KSA.

The judge ordered Kim to appear at a status conference for Jan. 24, 2019 at 10am.

Kim, who lives in Seoul, Republic of Korea, is allowed to appear telephonically. He was instructed to contact the clerk's office for dial-in instructions.

Manglona said it is Kim's responsibility to arrange for an interpreter, if needed.

Manglona said defendant Jeong Eun Taek is not ordered to appear, but may do so if he so wishes.

Citing a precedent case, the judge said it is well settled that "a corporation may appear in the federal courts only through licensed counsel."

Manglona said although Kim may appear pro se or without a lawyer and represent himself in this matter, he may not appear for KSA.

Kim is the sole shareholder of KSA.

Manglona said failure to secure new counsel may lead to dismissal of KSA from this lawsuit.

Manglona heard Scoggins' motion to withdraw as counsel last Thursday. Scoggins and Holmes appeared. Kim and the only served defendant, Eun Taek Jeong, did not appear.

Manglona

Scoggins informed the court that last Oct. 30, he sent Kim an email informing him that because of a conflict of interest, Kim would have to hire a new Korean interpreter.

Scoggins said he did not get a response from Kim until last Dec. 21, when Kim called with the assistance of a person who spoke some English.

Scoggins emphasized the need for Kim to hire a professional interpreter.

After not hearing back from Kim, last Jan. 3 Scoggins notified him that the firm was planning to file a motion to withdraw.

Scoggins filed the motion to withdraw the following day, Jan. 4.

Kim responded that he would be calling the firm on Jan. 14.

Scoggins said Kim did not call that day and still had not called.

The lawyer said not only has communications been difficult, but Kim and KSA have not met their financial obligations to pay the firm for work already performed.

In his motion, Scoggins said despite almost daily attempts to communicate with his clients—Kim and KSA Corp.—for a period of several months they have not responded.

The lawyer said despite the same repeated attempts at communication, Kim and KSA have not met financial obligations to his office for a period of some months.

"KSA and Mr. Kim have made promises, but have not kept their promises," he said.

Last March, Manglona dismissed Kim's and KSA's claims against Joann P. Hensley, who is among the three persons that then-remained as defendants in the racketeering lawsuit.

Manglona dismissed with prejudice the claims against Hensley following the request of Kim and KSA.

Dismiss with prejudice means Kim and KSA can no longer re-file the claims against Hensley.

Kim and KSA asked the court to issue a default judgment against defendants Hensley, Hun Jin An, and Jeong Eun Tack who allegedly continue to fail to file any answer or other responsive pleadings in this case.

At a hearing on the motion for default judgment, Manglona pointed out that Hensley filed an answer and that the court did not see a proof of service filed for the motion.

Rene Holmes, co-counsel for Kim and KSA, conferred with Kim, then moved to dismiss the claims against Hensley.

Manglona granted the motion.

Manglona stated that the court did not have jurisdiction on An because he was never legally served with the lawsuit.

Manglona stated that the service on Taek was proper.

Kim and KSA alleged in their lawsuit that the defendants conspired to steal millions of dollars from him for his hotel and casino project on Saipan.

Aside from those three defendants, Kim and KSA Corp. also sued a former lawmaker, a Department of Public Lands employee, and 10 unnamed co-defendants pursuant to Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) and other causes of action.

The plaintiffs asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

The court subsequently dismissed with prejudice the claims against the former lawmaker and the DPL employee.

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CUC pressed to timely fill critical positions

» DOJ: CUC historically sustained lengthy vacancies in management positions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. historically sustained lengthy vacancies in management positions thereby impending CUC's operations and compliance with the federal court's two stipulated orders, according to U.S. Department of Justice Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien.

In the U.S. government's January 2019 status report about CUC stipulated order projects, O'Brien said since the August 2018 status conference, three "Stipulated Order 1 position" employees left CUC employment and these positions remain unfilled.

O'Brien

O'Brien said these unfilled positions include the chief financial officer (previously Antonio Castro), the chief engineer previously Song Kim), and the water and wastewater manager (previously Gary Byrd).

"It is critical that these positions be timely filled by persons who meet the SO1 qualifications," said O'Brien in the report filed Thursday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Castro's contract was reportedly not renewed. Kim resigned last October for medical reasons, while Byrd resigned last Nov. 30 to accept an off-island job.

SO 1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of CUC's organization.

SO 2 focuses on oil issues and also applies to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

CUC has admitted that it failed to fill certain vacant upper management positions as required by the federal court's SO1.

In CUC's status report filed before the court last week, CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok said CUC is actively advertising to fill the vacancies of the positions of chief engineer, chief financial officer, and water and waste water manager.

SO1 coordinator William Gilmore and CUC executive director Gary Camacho are expected to advise and inform the court, DOJ, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of the status of these vacancies during the status conference.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter will hold a week-long status conference about various CUC projects that will begin on Jan. 29, 2019.

Carter had informed the parties that he would like to learn on the status of the various activities and requirements relevant to SO1 and SO2.

Triple J 5K Bubble Color run on Feb. 23

Mark your calendars for the happiest, most colorful, and foamiest run on Saipan—the Triple J Saipan 5k Bubble Color Run/Walk—set for Feb. 23.

Proceeds from the second annual TJ5K 2019 Bubble Color Run/Walk will go to the event's two beneficiaries, the Make-A-Wish® Foundation, aiding them in their mission to grant wishes to children with life-threatening diseases and the Commonwealth Cancer Association as they continue in their mission to promote cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI and the region.

Early bird registration opens from Feb. 1 to the 22 until 4pm for a rate of $10 per registrant. Locations for registration to be released soon so follow Triple J affiliates (Triple J Motors, Great Harvest Bread Co. Saipan, Surf Club Restaurant, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Saipan, Capricciosa and Tony Roma's) on social media for the most up-to-date information, general event facts and a chance to win a free entry for you and a friend! Yes! We said it. Triple J will give away a few free bibs for runners to join the foamiest color run on Saipan so follow us on Facebook and Instagram for contest details.

Not much of an early bird? No problem! Runners can also register event morning for a $15 fee. Each registered runner will receive a custom event T-shirt and the opportunity to get "colored" during the race, a race bib to track individual start-to-finish time, and, a raffle entry for thousands of dollars' worth prizes. But that's not all CNMI! If you arrive early, Gold's Gym will host a Zumba warm-up class to get all runners loose for the 6am start time

After the TJ5K 2019 Bubble Color Run/Walk Triple J invites all participants to jump-in or run straight into the famous TJ5K foam pit, safe for all ages—a signature event activity of all Triple J Bubble Color Run/Walk events. What is a foam pit? Join the TJ5K 2019 Bubble Color Run/Walk and experience it for yourself.

The Triple Saipan restaurant group will also be on site to provide fantastic sweet and savory options for a light and healthy breakfast as DJ Rico of Soundhire Saipan keeps the grounds lit. Thanks to our business partners, an endless supply of refreshments will be offered to keep everyone hydrated and alert as a live emcee raffles off thousands of dollars' worth in prize packages and giveaways.

Triple J Saipan, Inc. would like to extend sincere gratitude to CRM/BECQ, DLNR, Parks & Recs, DPS, DFEMS and MVA for each entity's partnership to ensure safety of public and event participants is foremost as well as TRAC for their support with accurate route measurements and recording precise times of all 1,000+ anticipated participants. ***(PR)***

YUTU

From Page 1

ing utensils, cooking pots and pans, restroom kits, bariatric cots, first aid kits, two 10-liter water containers, baby wipes, and baby formula were among the supplies distributed Friday.

"Some of the biggest requests that we get are for cookware," Hunter said. "… It is much needed," he continued. Hunter headed the operation for the two days of distribution at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The following day, the Lady Diann Torres Foundation distributed goods from their latest shipment from Las Vegas, Nevada, alongside the remaining supplies for distribution from the CNMI government.

"…This is our third shipment stateside. I believe we have one more container coming in, and we would schedule another distribution for that," Foundation program coordinator Claudia Flores told *Saipan Tribune*. She added that it has yet to be confirmed and it is still unknown whether the upcoming shipment is the last for their relief distribution efforts for Super Typhoon Yutu.

The distributions lasted from 9am to 5pm at the Garapan Fishing Base for both Friday and Saturday, and were done through a drive-through at the venue.

VELMA

From Page 1

their first female governor and we hope to do that here in the CNMI. They also have 10 women in their Legislature," said Palacios in a brief speech after being name the 2018 Business Person of the Year award.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce held their annual event where they named the winner of the BPOY and the Saipan Young Professional of the Year, this time holding the ceremony—Silver Lining Gala—at the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Saturday.

Local members of the business community, government officials, and non-governmental organizations attended the Silver Lining Gala—their first event for the year—that wants to convey a message of hope amidst the devastating effects of Super Typhoon Yutu.

The Guam Legislature also has 10 female senators headed by Speaker Tina Muna-Barnes, vice speaker Telena Cruz-Nelson, and legislative secretary Amanda L. Shelton. The Guam Supreme Court also had their first female Chief Justice, Katherine A. Maraman.

"They [Guam] have 10 women in their Legislature, but I want to say that I work in a company that is run by women. That's why, your network was up during Yutu," said Palacios, IT&E's Network Operations and Engineering director, that drew cheers from the crowd.

"Shout out to [IT&E general manager] Rose Soledad, my boss. That's why, I encourage you all to continue to promote women in your companies because women run the organizations much better."

Palacios is the 23rd recipient of the Chamber's highest award and the sixth women after now local Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente (2014), Bank of Guam's Marcia Tomokane (2013), Marcia E. Ayuyu of R.J. Corp. (2012), K.B. Communication' Kathryn Barry (2008), now Fiesta Resort & Spa general manager Wendi Herring (2000), and Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS (1999).

Benavente and Herring were named when each of them were still with PIC, while Ayuyu shared the award with the late Anthony Pellegrino of Saipan Sea Ventures.

Palacios jokingly told the past recipients Ayuyu, Benvavente, Herring, Jim Arenovski, Ivan Quichocho, Mike Sablan, Dave Sablan, Jerry Tan, Ben Babauta, and Alex Sablan that she's humbled to be the youngest to join the illustrious list.

"Am I the youngest among all of you guys?... I look forward to learn from you and learning from you. That's what I'm asking if I was the youngest, I know I'm younger than Alex. We are classmates," said Palacios that drew laughter from the crowd.

"But seriously, I really look up to you and I am honored to be here amongst all of you. I worked with most of you but really thank you for this award. To all the nominees, you all are deserving of this award. You have contributed to our community in one way or another. Service has always been part of my life and the company that I work for. I thank IT&E for supporting me."

Palacios is also a known community advocate as she serves as the chair of the Kagman Community Health Center board, the secretary/treasurer of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, member of the State Workforce Development Board, Northern Marianas Business Alliance member, and has served on the Chamber board since 2012 and president since 2016.

The other nominees were Pacific Islands Club general manager Gloria Cavanagh, Xerox marketing representative Nola K. Hix, The Shack owner Glen Hunter, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, MARPAC Beverage & Tobacco Division sales manager James K. Lee, Ron Smith of Angil Design Inc., and IT&E Customer Service and Government Relations manager Janice Tenorio.

KILILI

From Page 1

Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent residents and their IRs, IRs of citizens of Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), caregivers of CNMI residents are affected by USCIS' decision to discontinue the program.

USCIS, however, has suggested they would work with Sablan and the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for a legislative fix and gave a 180-day transition window to those affected.

Sablan said with USCIS terminating the humanitarian parole program, granted to them under the Obama administration in 2011, those qualified workers would be forced to leave the CNMI on or before June 29 this year unless U.S. Congress acts on the bills that he introduced.

"The covered groups would also retain the right to work and to travel back and forth… Even with Democrats in the majority in the House, the legislation faces a hard road ahead," said Sablan.

"The legislation is similar to what I introduced in 2011 that was ultimately blocked by the Fitial administration and the language I included in Section 2109 of S. 744, the bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill passed by the Democratic Senate in 2012 but blocked by the Republican House."

Stateless individuals and CNMI permanent residents, and their spouses and children; spouses, child, or a parent of a U.S. citizen (notwithstanding the age of the citizen); in-home caregivers; long-term workers as defined in the U.S. Workforce Act; and E-2C investors are the said groups that would be given CNMI improved status.

USCIS said their decision to discontinue the program was part of their mission to properly administer the lawful immigration system of the U.S. They are encouraging U.S. Congress to address their status.

UCIS added that parolees that applied for an extension would receive a letter that grants a 180-day transitional parole. The extension, however, is on a case-by-case basis unless if there was a reason to deny the request. They would then issue new EADs that would cover the 180-day transition period to those who requested an extension.

Lawmakers glad on salary bill closure

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Several House lawmakers told *Saipan Tribune* that they are now finally relieved that the issue on the salary level of members of the Legislature was settled after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recently signed into law House Bill 20-197. Public Law 20-86 sets their salaries at $32,000 annually.

House minority leader Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), who was a vocal critic of a previous bill that raised their salaries to $70,000, said the new law could paved the way for a part-time Legislature that's being used in 14 states like Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming.

"We're all taking a $7,300 pay cut and we now know that the $32,000 salary is constitutional, as opposed to the 80-percent salary increase that I opposed and voted against. I believe now is the time to seriously consider a part-time Legislature I know several of my colleagues are considering seeking part-time jobs. I am as well," Propst told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan), one of the seven first-term lawmakers, said they can now focus of doing their legislative work. "As public servants, we try to focus more on the work we intend to carry out to our constituents rather than how much we get paid."

"What I'm glad about is that this finally puts some closure on the issue so we can continue on with business as usual for our constituents," added Castro.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who previously served in the 16th Legislature, said the important things is all lawmakers will be compensated in a legal way and in a level that is according to the CNMI Constitution.

"We now know, thanks to the [CNMI] Supreme Court, the efforts of an independent Attorney General, and questions raised by several conscientious legislators—including our current [House] speaker and minority leader—and many concerned citizens that the previous salary increases for legislators did not comply with Constitutional requirements," said Sablan.

The original salary hike bill includes the 80-percent increase under P.L. 19-83, which would have given members of the Legislature a $70,000 annual salary. The CNMI Supreme Court ruled last year that it was unconstitutional including two other legislations—P.L. 4-32 in 1985 and 7-31 (1990).

Sablan said she supports having a part-time Legislature, which is also being pushed by Propst. "And we know that our legal system can and does work, and that the rule of law applies to lawmakers as it does to everyone else."

"The current level at $32,000 does represent a pay cut from what it used to be, of course, but I think this could be an opportunity for us to test the possibilities of a part-time legislature. I know some legislators, myself included, will be working at other jobs outside of the legislature," said Sablan.

She added that she also believes that the local Legislature could work part-time like in other U.S. jurisdictions since it was also allowed under the CNMI Constitution.

Guam performers unite for Yutu relief

The night of Nov. 17 if you happened to have been in Agana Heights in Guam, you might have heard the music floating out of the Elks Lodge. A number of local performers came together to share their musical talents for a Yutu relief concert. The performers brought their creativity to the stage to benefit people in the CNMI who are working to rebuild Saipan and Tinian after the devastating effects of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Proceeds from the concert were recently donated to Karidat Social Services on Saipan which has been helping to fill in some of the gaps left in the wake of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and American Red Cross assistance. Karidat is grateful to the organizers and performers: Ben LamLam, Walden and Violy, Dyun Gases, Daniel Deleon Guerrero, Tailgaters, Konference Band, Frank Guerrero, Wayne Schwartz, Zun Torrez, and others.

"Your generosity in sharing your talents to help the people of Saipan and Tinian is greatly appreciated!" organizers said. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JKPL closed tomorrow

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 in lieu of Monday's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.

When a holiday falls on a Sunday or Monday, the library closes on Tuesday after the holiday.

JKPL will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019 for regular hours. Please enjoy the time with family and friends!

For the latest news and events, please visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyu and Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. ***(PR)***

OVR Tinian outreach this Wednesday

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation would like to inform the public that they will be conducting their regular monthly outreach on Tinian this Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019. OVR counselor, Rose Ichiuo, will be at the Northern Marianas College campus Room D from 8:30am to 2:30pm. If you would like to meet with her please give her a call at 287-6548. ***(PR)***

A few days left to register with FEMA

Residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have less than week left to register for federal disaster assistance for damage from Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu.

The deadline to register with FEMA is Jan. 27, 2019.

A FEMA registration has a nine-digit number. If you do not have the nine-digit number, you are not registered for federal assistance.

Those who suffered impacts to their primary residences and have not registered with FEMA may do so either of three ways:

- On-line at DisasterAssistance.gov
- Call the FEMA Helpline at 1- (800) 621-3362
- Go to the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)

The DRC located at the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road in Susupe, is open 9am to 6pm Monday through Friday, and 10am to 4pm on Saturday. Closed on Sunday.

The DRC will be closed on Monday, Jan 21, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr, Holiday.

Please remember, applicants should have the following information at hand:

- Social Security number.
- Address of the damaged primary residence.
- Description of the damage.
- Information about insurance coverage if applicable.
- A current contact telephone number.
- An address where they can receive mail.
- Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds. ***(PR)***

Humanities awards on Jan. 24

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be hosting the 21st Governor's Humanities Awards at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant on Thursday, Jan. 24, starting at 11am. ***(PR)***

I Kumision i Fino' CHamoru meeting this Thursday

Due to extenuating circumstances, the Kumision i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'någuen i Historia yan Lina'la Taotao Tano' (I Kumision i Fino' CHamoru) has moved its Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019 meeting to the usual time, Thursday, Jan. 24 from 12:30pm to 3pm at its Hagatña location, the Garden House at the Plaza de España.

Agenda includes 1. Logistics for the Mina' Dos Fina'che'cho' on Friday, 1/25/19; and, 2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. ***(PR)***

DESPITE PARTICAL FEDERAL GOVT SHUTDOWN

District Court for NMI to remain open

The U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands wants to reassure the public that it is open for business to perform its constitutional functions and will remain open throughout the partial shutdown of federal operations.

Court staff will be on the job to provide services to litigants. The Clerk's Office is open during regular business hours, 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30p., to accept filings and payments. The electronic case management system (CM-ECF) is unaffected and remains accessible to all users.

As of today, the court will conduct business as usual and court employees will be paid through Jan. 25, 2019. After that date, when Judiciary fees and carryforward balances are projected to run out, the court will remain open, although administrative functions will be limited and, if necessary, some court employees may be furloughed.

Civil and criminal cases will proceed as scheduled. The court will continue to hold hearings, trials, and settlement conferences. Parties who are negatively impacted by the shutdown and need relief from deadlines must request extensions of time by motion or stipulation, in accordance with the Local Rules. Similarly, those who are under Court order to make payments, such as fines or restitution, are not excused from those obligations because of the shutdown.

The Probation Office also remains open and operating. Clients must maintain contact with the Probation Office consistent with the terms of their probation, supervised release, or pretrial release.

"It is our privilege to serve the Northern Mariana Islands community. The partial shutdown does not diminish our determination or ability to provide constitutionally mandated services," the District Court said in a statement. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Victor B. Hocog
Lt. Governor

DEQ: P.O. Box 501304, DCRM: P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
DEQ Tel.: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540
DCRM Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.deq.gov.mp and www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator
Ray S. Masga
Director, DEQ
Janice Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to ensure compliance with the CNMI Pesticide Regulations requires that pesticide shipments that are detained or denied entry and impounded shall pay a storage fee.

In accordance with NMIAC § 65-70-220, BECQ hereby requires a consignee/importer that imports a general pesticide use (GUP) that has been detained or denied entry and impounded to pay a non-refundable storage fee of $10 per day for each storage container (i.e. 55-gallon drum) starting from the date of interception by BECQ or authorized agents, until the pesticides and or devices are returned or disposed.

Consignee/importer who imports a pesticide that require special handling, including but not limited to restricted use pesticides (RUP), fumigants, gaseous pesticides and shall be assessed a non-refundable storage fee of $25 per day for each storage container (i.e. 55-gallon drum) starting from the date of interception by BECQ or authorized agents, until the pesticides and or devices are returned or disposed.

It is within the discretion of BECQ as to how to properly store pesticides, including the necessary number of 55-gallon drums, or their equivalent, to ensure the safety and welfare of BECQ employees and members of the public and the protection of the environment, while awaiting proper disposition of detained, seized or impounded pesticides.

For more information please contact BECQ Pesticide Branch at 664-8500 or 664-8511.

Chalan Kalabera project to break ground in Feb.

After nearly 20 years of planning and addressing strict federal and local environmental and historical requirements, the Department of Public Works is now set to break ground on construction of Route 36, commonly known as Windward Rd. and Chalan Kalabera by mid-February 2019.

The project involves the construction of approximately 3.7 miles of all-weather roadway along the Talofofo area on the Northern Coast of Saipan. The project begins at the end of existing paved road just past the entrance to the Kingfisher Golf Course and extends to the Bird Island Lookout having a distance of about 3.70 miles. The improvements include 12- and 11-foot wide travel lanes, 4.50-foot wide shoulders/bike lane on each side, roadside and road drainage crossings, permanent traffic markers and signs, box culverts at Unai Fanhang and Unai Nanasu crossings, and other roadway appurtenances for a complete, usable, and safe link between the north and central parts of Saipan.

Public Works Secretary James A. Ada noted that this project as a major achievement for the people of the Marianas.

"The goal from the very beginning was to finally have a roadway that gave inclusion to opportunity," said Ada.

"A new place paved for sightseeing, home development, agriculture, and business investments. Gov. Torres, Lt. Gov. Palacios, our leadership, and DPW, without a doubt, is spearheading a new vision for the Commonwealth. After addressing many of the federal and local requirements over the last four years, I am excited this project will break ground soon. I commend our director of Technical Services Division Anthony Camacho, Highway administrator Lorraine M. Seman and her staff and to all that put their extra effort, time and energy. I thank as well, the Federal Highway Region IX Administrator, Ralph Rizzo, Richelle Takara, and most especially Borris Boday for taking the lead for the Region Headquarters," he added.

Appropriations for the project was first awarded in 2003. The project began to take a wider course with local and federal clearances. By 2011, DPW, initiated all plans for Right of Ways, Design, and Construction.

The project design phase-related scope of work included land surveying, soils investigation, road structural section design, drainage crossing structural design, roadside drainage improvements which provide integrated storm water management which includes conveyance systems, retention and/or basins and final disposal works, utility adjustments, permits and other ancillary services required for a complete engineering design.

Construction Management for Route 36 was awarded to GHD Inc. The Notice to Proceed was issued on the 18th of October, 2016.

GHD, as the Construction Manager (CM), will provide field engineering services relating to the field observation, testing, coordination, and quality/quantity compliance monitoring for the construction of the Route 36 Road Improvement Project.

Bidding commenced in 2017 with Guam based contractor-Black Micro Corporation coming ahead of the bid. Within the year 2018, Federal Highway Administration initiated the approval to begin ground-breaking by February of 2019.

The total project funding breakdown for the construction phase amounts to $30.8 million.

"Roads connect people and ideas, and new infrastructure welcomes new opportunities for economic opportunities for our residents," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "This project is both exciting and beneficial for our community as a whole. As one of many road improvements, this project will alleviate traffic, which is a key priority. This will help our community not only make their daily commutes easier, but also provide a new scenic feature to our island that is also environmentally friendly."

"DPW is on the road again as we carefully set the course of development for the Commonwealth," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "Rebuilding requires good governance and careful planning and use of our limited resources. This project will be a great addition to our highway system." ***(PR)***

SWORN IN ERWIN ENCINARES

Three Rota and three Tinian and Aguiguan Municipal councilmen and women were sworn into their new positions last Monday morning with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios at the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill.

DFEMS aims to host Fire Academy in 2019

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services aims to host a Fire Academy this year.

DFEMS usually hosts a Fire Academy if additional training is necessary or if funding is available.

According to DFEMS Commissioner Clyde Norita, the department wants to hold an academy this year to train enough individuals for incoming equipment.

"We have two new trucks that should be done production by the end of June or July and hopefully they get here in time…. We're going to have another academy," he said.

Norita said that an academy is necessary because the operators of the new trucks will need additional training.

"We want to do another academy because the two new trucks require four crews to operate it and there's three shifts so that's eight crews per shift so at least 24. That's why I have to talk to the Gov. [Ralph DLG Torres] and Lt. Gov [Arnold I. Palacios] about that and the Legislature of course, their blessing on the additional manpower to operate those two new trucks and we'll continue our operations of enhancing our personnel through training, and continuing of our programs like we have been doing and it should be business as usual with a lot more endeavor and zeal with the new four years," he said.

Norita added that the department aims to further progress, as it has been doing for the past three years, in order to better serve the CNMI community.

"The past three years has really been great progress and strides for the Department of Fire and EMS. Personnel have been promoted twice in the past three years and personnel have new classifications and new the new legislation that created the fire department gave it more authority in regards to fire code and of course the fire lane…. all those were imbedded into the law that has been signed during this past three and a half years and that has given a lot of teeth to us as a department to better serve our people, protect our people, and so forth," he said.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-COTA/FTA-037

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 07, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF FOUR (4) VANS 2018 OR NEWER ADA COMPLIANT MOBILITY EQUIPPED TRANSIT VANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **JANUARY 07, 2019** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE 216 MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NARU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL AT **cota16assistant@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, 4:30, LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 23, 2019.**

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) OF THE U.S DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net • Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its board meeting on **January 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's Conference Room at Bldg. #1242, Pohnpei Ct., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (7/25/18)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
VII. Director's Report
- Financial Report
- Statement of Financial Interest for Calendar Year 2018
- Re-posting of BPL Rules and Regulations
- NCARB and AARO Membership
- ASC Compliance Review onsite Visit – August 5-9, 2019
- 2019 Off-Island Board Meetings Schedule

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
- Comments on NCARB Continuing Education

XII. Applications for Board's Review
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Friday, January 25, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
a.) Call to Order
b.) Roll Call
c.) Adoption of Agenda
d.) Adoption of Minutes
1) September 28, 2018 - Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. REPORTS
a.) Chair's Report
b.) Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
a.) Professional Services Contract - Janet H. King

V. NEW BUSINESS
a) Budget
b) Office Space
c) Reorganization

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Rosemarie Estrella Penaroyo, Petitioner, vs. Antonio Jose C. Arriola, Respondent, : FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-001 : **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505932 CK Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2019.
/s/
Clerk of Court

148 CNMI, Guam students saved $1.95M on out-of-state tuition

BOULDER, CO—America's largest interstate higher education tuition-savings programs set records in 2018-19 for students enrolled and dollars saved. More than $417.7 million was saved by 42,579 students on three programs managed by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) across its 16-member states and territories, the agency announced today.

The most popular of WICHE's three Student Access Programs, the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), saw 40,487 students save $380.5 million this year on nonresident tuition at public associate's or bachelor's degree programs in the Western U.S. Through WUE, students enroll in one of 162 participating colleges or universities outside their home state and pay no more than 150 percent of that institution's resident rate. Since nonresident tuition can cost 300 percent (or more) of resident rates, the WUE discount saves students more than $9,300 a year on average.

WICHE's two other tuition-discount programs also served nearly 2,100 students in 2018-19. The Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) enabled 1,478 students to pay resident tuition at out-of-state graduate programs. The Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)—in which Western states subsidize tuition for residents pursuing veterinary medicine, optometry, dentistry, and several other high-need health degrees in other states—helped 614 students affordably pursue those degrees and (as 67 percent of students do) return home to fill provider gaps.

In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam (who share a WICHE U.S. Pacific Islands membership), 148 residents saved $1.95 million on out-of-state tuition through these programs; a summary of Student Access Program 2018-19 data related to CNMI and Guam is attached to this release. "WICHE's tuition-savings programs broaden the affordable higher education options for our residents—helping them graduate with less debt and ultimately strengthening our workforce," said Jude Hofschneider, senior in the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and a WICHE commissioner. "These programs also have the potential to help our colleges and universities draw students from other Western states, which would fill revenue-producing seats, diversify their campuses and bolster bottom lines for institutions and communities."

These interstate tuition-savings programs are a key way WICHE serves Western states, students and institutions. WICHE was established by states and approved by Congress in 1953 to facilitate partnerships and resource-sharing between Western states, many of which lacked the breadth of higher education programs available in more densely populated states, yet had a need to affordably educate residents to meet diverse workforce needs.

The Western population has quadrupled since WICHE's founding, but many states still lack programs in key fields. Meanwhile, student debt, mobility, and tuition costs keep increasing. Such factors have led to 20 percent growth in Student Access Program enrollment and 42 percent growth in Student Access Program tuition savings these past five years.

A comprehensive Student Access Programs: By the Numbers report, with detailed data and state-by-state dashboards of student and institutional participation, is now available at wiche.edu/sapreport.

Established in 1953, WICHE is one of four regional interstate compacts in the U.S. Its programs and efforts help student pursue higher education affordably and conveniently, accelerate regionwide sharing of ideas and resources, provide expert research and policy guidance, and help higher education stakeholders thrive amidst rapid change. WICHE is funded by its member states and territories—who reap strong returns on investment from WICHE programs—and by grantmakers and others who share our desire to overcome the education and workforce challenges of tomorrow. Visit wiche.edu to learn more. ***(PR)***

Jimenez wins GMS National Geographic GeoBee

Eleven students from Green Meadow School participated in the school-level competition of the National Geographic GeoBee on Jan. 18, 2019.

Joseph Victor Jimenez, a seventh grade student, won first place, with Samuelino Cabrera, a sixth grade student, winning second place and Solana Arro Hunter, a sixth grade student, finishing third place.

The school-level competition is the first round in the annual National Geographic GeoBee, a geography competition designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world. Questions cover not only geography, but also cultures, physical features, history and earth science.

The National Geographic Society developed the GeoBee in 1989 in response to concern about the lack of geographic knowledge among young people in the United States. Over more than three decades, 120 million students have learned about the world through participation in the GeoBee.

School champions, including Joseph Jimenez, will take an online qualifying test; up to 100 of the top test scorers in each state then become eligible to compete in their State GeoBee. The winners of the State GeoBees receive an all-expenses-paid trip to National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C., next May to participate in the GeoBee national championship, competing for cash prizes, scholarships and an all-expenses-paid Lindblad expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the National Geographic Endeavour ll. Learn more at www.natgeobee.org.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joseph Victor Jimenez, Samuelino Cabrera, and Solana Arro Hunter finished first, second, and third in Green Meadow School's National Geographic GeoBee.

» Local students compete in 1st round of national competition

In addition to the GeoBee, National Geographic also offers classroom resources, student experiences and professional development opportunities for educators.

The National Geographic Society is a leading nonprofit that invests in bold people and transformative ideas in the fields of exploration, scientific research, storytelling and education. Through our grants and programs, we aspire to create a community of change, advancing key insights about our planet and probing some of the most pressing scientific questions of our time while ensuring that the next generation is armed with geographic knowledge and global understanding. Our goal is measurable impact: furthering exploration and educating people around the world to inspire solutions for the greater good. For more information, visit www.nationalgeographic.org. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-002-19
Request for Proposals
for:
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-01
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-02
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-03
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-04
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-05
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-06

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on February 8, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

Tinian International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-003-19
Request for Proposals
for:
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-07
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-08
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-003-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on February 8, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-004-19
Request for Proposals
for:
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-10
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-11
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-12

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on February 8, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

'NMI lost a good person, public servant'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ

Frank Dela Cruz's widow Lisa, right, receives a hug of condolences.

CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, right, offers his condolences to two of the children of the late Francisco S. Dela Cruz.

Retired CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz delivered a lighthearted eulogy to honor their younger brother, the late representative Francisco Santos Dela Cruz, in last Saturday's funeral rites at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. The 56-year-old lawmaker was laid to rest afterwards at the nearby Mt. Carmel Cemetery with family, friends, CNMI officials, and his colleagues at the Legislature in attendance.

The former magistrate said that their brother's passing was sudden—last Jan. 6 while visiting their family and friends on Tinian. "He was 56 years old and still at the prime of his life. He was at an age where dying would be the last thing in your mind. His sudden departure left us all in a state of shock and disbelief."

"Frank's wife Lisa and four children—Divana, Dana, Deveney, and Damien—were truly devastated of his untimely passing... It is not easy to lose your youngest brother, especially one who is caring and loving. Frank had a good heart. We had lost a truly good person and the Commonwealth a good public servant."

Representative Dela Cruz was the youngest among seven kids—Juan, Jose, Maria DLC Blas, Elizabeth DLC Heacock, Ramon, and Edward—of the late Tomas Castro and Remedio Sablan Santos Dela Cruz.

He added, "For all of us who knew Frank personally—his friends, family, and the people of our island community—we grieve because all of a sudden, he's no longer with us. We grieve because Frank touched our lives in one way or another when he was with us."

The older Dela Cruz then recalled how Frank, or Liki, to them surprised their family when he announced his intention to run for public office since his brother was not an outgoing type. "We were surprised because he was a private individual and unassuming; but he would always talk to people first."

Dela Cruz was first elected in the 15th CNMI Legislature and served until the 18th, where he became vice speaker under the leadership of former House speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero. He failed in his reelection for the 19th Legislature, but came back in the 20th and again won one of the six seats for Precinct 3 in the 21st. Sadly, he died before the inauguration.

Jose Dela Cruz said their brother, after being elected, scrutinized every bill that goes through his office. "He took his oath of office seriously with commitment and to the best of his ability. His guiding principle was to see if the legislation would benefit or would put a burden to the CNMI."

Public utilities has always been close to Dela Cruz as he even served as the chair of the House Public Utilities Committee. "He's always into public utilities issues in the CNMI. He is particularly concerned on the effective delivery of public utilities and making sure consumers are being reasonably charged for water, power, sewer, telecommunications, and cable TV."

"He wants to make sure utility charges for CNMI consumers are fair and reasonable, not excessive and unjust. Oversight is extremely important to him. Having a regulatory agency and legislative needs overseeing public utilities. The House and Senate public utilities committees should always make sure that utility service, rates, and charges are fair and reasonable and would not be a burden to the consuming public."

The retired chief justice also remembered his brother as a hardworking family man aside from being a dedicated public servant. "He worked tirelessly to ensure that they [his family] have a decent life, good education, and become responsible adults. When I say tirelessly, I mean that to the true sense of the word—he personally does his own yard work, painting their house, plumbing, including fixing the computer for he was also a computer geek."

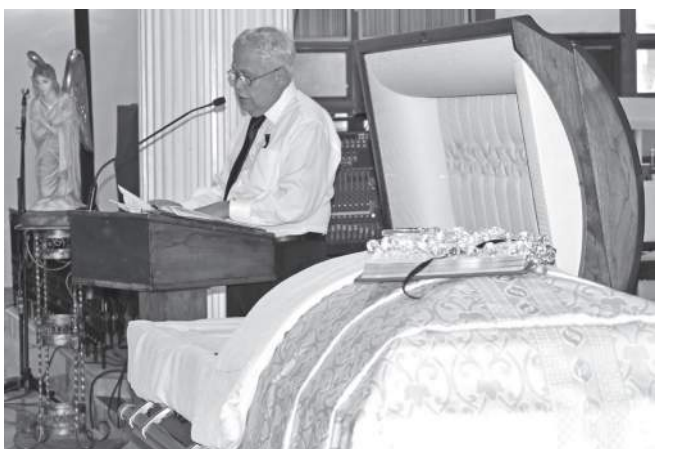
"Frank's colleagues in the CNMI Legislature can also easily remember his ability to get along with everyone. But, when substantive legislative matters where an issue, he becomes passionately involved. He did not stand by idly and always made his point of views known in every issue. He would never compromise his integrity or the general welfare of the people."

Jose Dela Cruz shared other stories, which drew chuckles and smiles from the congregation—about his brother like when his own wife, Rita, told him that he should be more like his younger brother who likes physical work and the times that their family gatherings with their other siblings would often end late at night after their two other brothers—John and Ray—would argue on who is the best singer between them.

"It is sufficing to say, that all of us, including our two sisters Mary and Beth, always rely on Frank to help us whenever any of us are in need. We will be forever indebted to Frank for all of the things he has done. Our family thank you and we appreciate the words of condolences and all your prayers."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann T. Torres, House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), several members of the 21st CNMI Legislature, and other local government officials attended the funeral to offer their condolences to the family.

Members of the Olomwaay Family Choir serenade the crowd.



Retired CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz delivers the eulogy for his brother, former vice speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz, in last Saturday's funeral rites at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Department of Public Safety officers accompany the casket to the final resting of the late representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, walks with first lady Diann T. Torres, right, and House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao.

Matson employee match program raises more than $20K for Yutu relief

Matson announced today that it has matched $10,868 in employee cash donations to support relief efforts in Saipan and Tinian as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu, bringing the total donation to $21,736.

The donation is part of a pledge Matson announced last October for $125,000 in cash and in-kind support for Yutu relief in Saipan and Tinian. Matson set up a special donation drive and match program at the request of employees and was prompted by a generous donation from the crew of its vessel Manoa.

"Our employees on land and at sea wanted to personally donate to help their colleagues, friends and family in Saipan and Tinian recover from the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu as quickly as possible," said Bernie Valencia, Matson vice president and general manager for Guam and Micronesia. "Matson's matching donation was triggered by their generosity and drive."

Vessel crews, departments, stations, and individual employees contributed to the company fund drive, with proceeds going to the American Red Cross of the Northern Mariana Islands.

During a check presentation ceremony in Saipan last Jan. 14, John Hirsch, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director said, "The people of the CNMI are definitely better off thanks to the generosity of Matson. Matson provided financial and logistical support to the Red Cross, enabling us to help Yutu disaster survivors. Recovery takes a community coming together and Matson is once again a leader in this effort."

Matson continues to support the Ayuda Foundation by transporting needed equipment and supplies to Saipan. Matson provides a weekly service to Saipan aboard the Mana.

For detailed Matson service schedules and other information, please visit Matson.com.

Founded in 1882, Matson is a leading provider of ocean transportation and logistics services. Matson provides a vital lifeline to the domestic non-contiguous economies of Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam, and to other island economies in Micronesia. Matson also operates a premium, expedited service from China to Southern California and provides services to Okinawa, Japan and various islands in the South Pacific. The Company's fleet of owned and chartered vessels includes containerships, combination container and roll-on/roll-off ships and custom-designed barges. Matson Logistics, established in 1987, extends the geographic reach of Matson's transportation network throughout the continental U.S. Its integrated, asset-light logistics services include rail intermodal, highway brokerage, warehousing, freight consolidation, Asia supply chain services, and forwarding to Alaska. Additional information about the Company is available at www.matson.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bernie Valencia, Matson vice president and general manager for Guam and Micronesia, second from right, presents a check on behalf of Matson employees to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter to assist with Yutu recovery efforts. From left, Marites Yumul, Matson liaison-Saipan region; John Hirsch, ARC-NMI Chapter executive director; Jean Sablan, Red Cross honorary director and board member; Valencia; and Prudy Denight, Matson account executive.

Islan Marianas donates anew for Yutu relief

Once again, in response to a catastrophic typhoon, the members of Islan Marianas, Inc. rallied together to support the relief efforts in the CNMI.

This organization, which is designated by the Internal Revenue Services as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit entity, was initially birthed in 2015 when a group of people in central Texas with CNMI roots and friends gathered together and held a car wash fundraiser, raising $900 which was sent to help the residents of the CNMI. The funds were distributed to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter to be used toward the relief efforts in the wake of Typhoon Soudelor.

In October 2018, in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu, Islan Marianas mobilized resources and held a number of fundraisers, including a hot lunch sale, vending booths selling flower leis, local island food and pearl shakes, and using existing corporation funds to raise more than $4,300.

All funds were distributed to organizations on the ground providing relief to the island people. In order to support a container that was going to be loaded with needed items, the first amount of $1,530 was sent to the CNMI Club of San Diego within days after the storm. Thereafter, $1,400 was sent to Karidat Social Services and another $1,400 was sent to Empty Vessel Ministry, locally based organizations in support of their outreach and relief efforts.

Islan Marianas is comprised of many transplanted residents of the CNMI stationed or residing in Central Texas, as well as, friends of the islands.

The three-fold purpose of the organization is to promote the arts, culture and language of the Marianas and surrounding islands of the Pacific, to expand educational opportunities, and to conduct community outreach and to further the common good and general welfare of the community.

Since its inception, members have engaged in numerous community outreach projects, including an annual Shelter Christmas project, performing cultural dance at various venues, such as retirement homes, and even going house to house during the Christmas season blessing homes with the cultural practice of presenting the Niño. For the coming year, Islan Marianas will be awarding scholarships to selected qualified members in addition to conducting outreach and community service projects. For more information, check out our Facebook page—Islan Marianas Inc. ***(PR)***

NMC Cash for College workshops this week

Northern Marianas College is reminding interested students and members of the community about the upcoming Cash for College workshops that will happen this week on Rota and Saipan.

The Cash for College workshops on Rota will be held on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, from 10am to 4pm, and Friday, Jan./25, 2019, from 8am to 12pm at the NMC Rota Campus.

The workshop on Saipan will be held this Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019, at the NMC As Terlaje campus between Building N and O from 9am to 12pm.

Interested participants on Tinian can attend the Cash for College workshop scheduled for Feb. 12, 2019, at the Tinian NMC Campus Library from 10:30am to 2:30pm.

Participants of the workshop will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms like the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and application forms for CNMI Scholarship, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) program, and other municipal scholarships.

Staff members from the College's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process. In addition, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the upcoming Spring 2019 semester. This waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

In addition, the CNMI Scholarship Office and SHEFA program extended their application deadlines for Northern Marianas College students.

The new deadlines for CNMI Scholarship and SHEFA are:

CNMI Scholarship Application: March 1, 2019

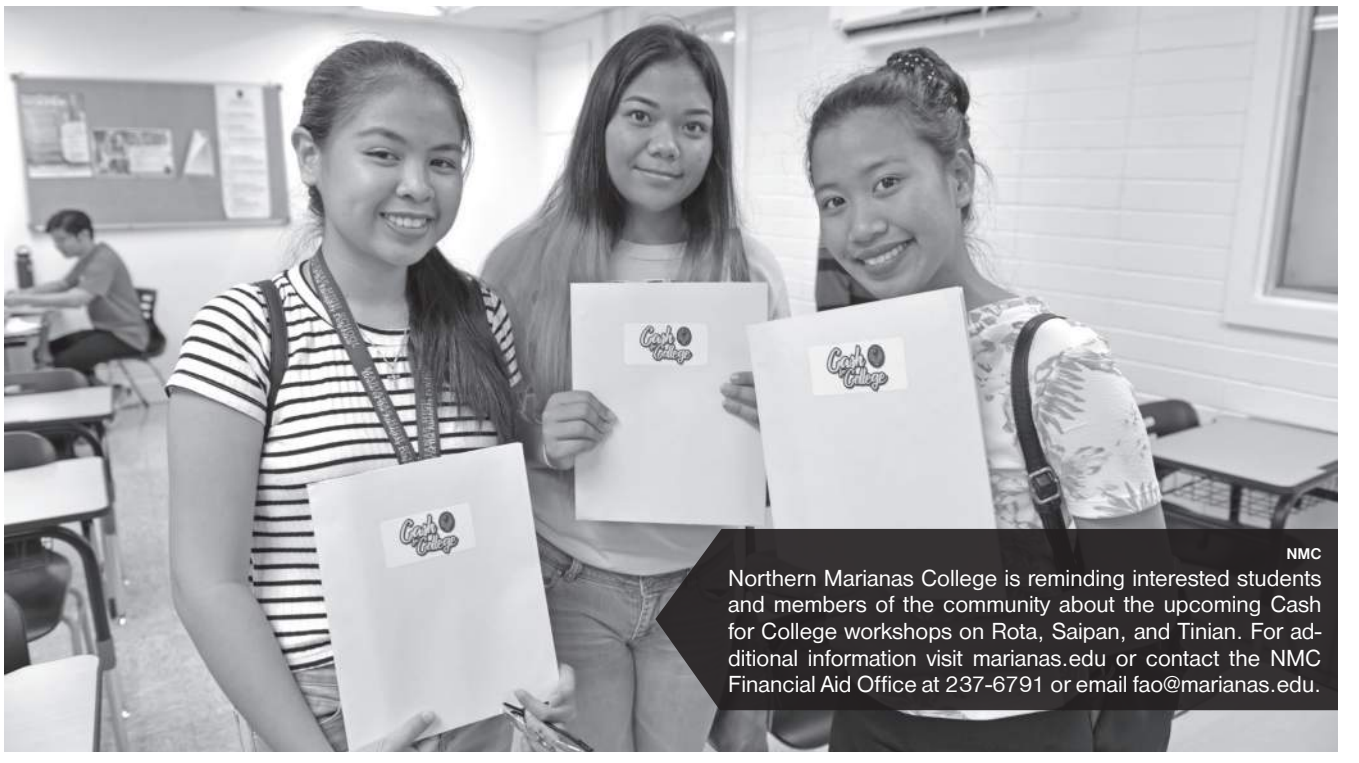
CNMI Scholarship Supporting Documents: April 15, 2019

SHEFA Application Deadline: Feb. 1, 2019

SHEFA Supporting Documents: April 12, 2019

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), Copy of 2017 and 2018 1040, Copy of 2017 and 2018 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency.

For additional information visit marianas.edu or contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6791 or email fao@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***



NMC

Northern Marianas College is reminding interested students and members of the community about the upcoming Cash for College workshops on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. For additional information visit marianas.edu or contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6791 or email fao@marianas.edu.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Who says the State of the Union has to be given in D.C.? Take the speech to the heartland Mr. President

If Donald Trump really wants to remake Washington, he might want to consider an outlandish idea that would upend the traditions surrounding the State of the Union Address. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has already raised the possibility of cancelling or postponing the speech, currently slated for Jan. 29, because of the partial government shutdown. Why not take her up on the offer and get out of town? Leave the swamp behind and give the speech from a state capitol out in that mass of America sometimes called flyover country.

Consider a few facts. Today, the United States is a deeply divided country where political discussions descend into bickering and where extreme views are on parade. One House Democrat started off the year with language not fit for a family newspaper while making a promise to impeach the president. Meanwhile, a Republican congressman from Iowa got himself into the national conversation by wondering when white nationalism became a derogatory term.

These aren't normal times. They are, in fact, reminiscent of the most divided periods in our history — periods when each side believed that the republic would come crashing down if they lost the next election or let slip the reins of power.

Some of this division stems from a belief — not altogether wrong—that Washington has lost touch with what the people of this country want and need from their national government. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (or maybe more accurately, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez) represents the rise of a new set of ideas to nationalize large segments of the economy starting with health care and moving on to whatever environmental demands require. At the same time, much of that large swath of America that lacks a college degree looks at where the economy is headed and wonders what it will hold for those who don't have that degree to hang on the wall.

After all, we're a little more than a decade out from a financial crisis that eroded faith in stock markets and Wall Street and diminished the bedrock belief that buying a home was wise.

So how can the political class get a better view of what the electorate is thinking? Elections are essential, of course. But elections aren't the only mechanism to feed information back to federal officials. Trump could take the entire State of the Union show out of the Capitol, invite every member of Congress and other dignitaries who typically attend to join him, and deliver the address from the heartland.

Doing so would be political theater, but it could also open up a substantive discussion. After all, imagine what would happen if he took the speech to, say, Lansing, Michigan.

See who on Next Page

Mitt Romney fails his first test on Russia

By ELI LAKE
Bloomberg News

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for the Washington Times, the New York Sun and UPI.

When Senator Mitt Romney opened 2019 with a scathing op-ed lamenting President Donald Trump's lack of moral leadership, it seemed like he was claiming the mantle of the late Senator John McCain.

Like McCain, Romney — for the most part — did not partake in the ritual fealty that so many of Trump's vanquished foes demonstrated. Sure, he met with Trump in November 2016 to audition for secretary of state. But Romney never fully bent the knee.

So one might think Romney would have joined the 11 other Republican senators who voted this week to stop the Trump administration from lifting sanctions meant to squeeze Russian President Vladimir Putin's allies. Senate aides told me Majority Leader Mitch McConnell did not try too hard to whip the vote, and neither did the White House.

Yet Utah's junior senator voted with the administration. His communications director, Liz Johnson, told me Romney "believes the U.S. should maintain strong sanctions on Russia for its bad behavior, including its interference in our elections." Nonetheless, she said, "his vote was in line with longstanding U.S. policy and will help preserve our leverage to gain concessions from other bad actors."

At issue was a deal that required Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska to divest from three of his companies so he no longer owned a majority stake. In exchange for the divestment, the U.S. Treasury Department would lift sanctions on those companies.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin made the case for the bargain personally in meetings this month with House leaders and Senate Republicans. Part of his argument was that it was important to show that sanctions can be lifted when bad actors comply. He also promised that the deal for Deripaska's divestiture required unprecedented transparency from these companies. If they violated the agreement, he said, there would be swift repercussions.

That sounds good. But it's not entirely clear that Treasury has the capability to find out whether Deripaska, who has been accused of money-laundering, extortion and threatening rivals, has actually divested. Charles Davidson, the founder of the Kleptocracy Initiative, told me that Treasury can demand a change in ownership, but it wouldn't necessarily know who controls or influences the newly organized companies.

Senator Tom Cotton, who voted against easing the sanctions, was slightly more optimistic in an interview. The new agreement calls for an extraordinary level of transparency and includes an auditing requirement, he told me. At the same time, the unprecedented nature of the bargain means that the Treasury Department lacks experience in enforcing it. And the deal allows Deripaska to retain a 45 percent stake in the companies, down from 70 percent. "I fear Deripaska will likely retain operational control of those companies," Cotton said.

If he does, what can Treasury do? Romney's argument is that the punishment will be swift. "The senator expects the administration to re-impose sanctions if these companies don't comply," Johnson told me.

This expectation is misplaced. Remember that last year Trump overruled his own Commerce Department when it sought to sanction the Chinese telecom giant, ZTE, for violating the terms of an earlier settlement to avoid penalties for selling equipment to Iran and other sanctioned states. At the time, Trump was in the middle of trade negotiations with China.

There is no evidence, for now, that this Deripaska deal is part of a larger rapprochement with Russia. Some policy experts have endorsed it on the merits. That said, the optics are miserable for the president. Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, is a former business associate of Deripaska, who once loaned Manafort $10 million.

Democrats have already seized on this. In a letter to colleagues, Senator Minority Leader Chuck Schumer wrote he was concerned by the timing of the sanctions deal because it benefits a Putin confidante "who is reportedly under investigation as part of the Special Counsel's investigation of the Russian government's effort to interfere in the 2016 presidential election."

All of this gets back to Romney. The measure to close debate and repeal the Deripaska deal lost by only two votes. The senator declined to join the 11 other members of his party, a party whose 2012 presidential nominee memorably warned that Russia was America's "No. 1 geopolitical foe." That guy was on to something. I wonder what happened to him.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Climate change and the 'tragedy of the commons'

By DYLAN SELTERMAN
The Baltimore Sun

Dylan Selterman is a senior lecturer in the Psychology Department at the University of Maryland.

In 2015, a student tweeted about an extra credit activity in my psychology course, igniting a discussion about the "tragedy of the commons" — the idea that when masses of people engage in excessive consumption, it can have catastrophic environmental consequences, such as climate change. In light of the House and Senate's recently proposed Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, let's revisit this idea and consider how carbon pricing can serve as an effective solution to this problem.

For the class activity, each student was allowed to choose whether they wanted two or six points of extra credit for their grade, but if more than 10 percent of the group choose six points, then nobody received any points. The purpose is to illustrate how a shared resource can be overtaxed (like water or fossil fuels). Only one of the dozens of classes I taught had mastered the exercise. The rest failed, meaning that more than 10 percent of students chose six points, and they ended up with nothing.

Since then, people have prompted me to think about variables that might help mitigate the temptation to choose six points. Then, scaling upward, how could we apply this to stave off overconsumption and put a check on anthropogenic warming?

In 2016, I amended the activity, drawing inspiration from scientists Ernst Fehr and Simon Gachter. Now students have three options to choose from: two points, six points or zero points. That's right, zero — meaning, they deliberately forego any possible benefit from the exercise. But there's an upside. For every student who chooses zero points for themselves, another student who had picked six will have their points taken away, and subtracted from the total number of six point choosers. So choosing zero is self-sacrificial, but for the benefit of the whole group.

My courses range from several dozen to several hundred students, and usually a handful choose zero points. This has had a dramatic effect. Since adding this third choice, about half of my classes manage to stay under the 10 percent threshold and receive their extra credit points. Students are cooperating a lot more! Here are the results from my Fall 2018 social psychology course: Out of 119 students, 104 people chose two points, 11 chose six, and four chose zero. Thus, the effective overconsumption rate was under 6 percent. Without the zero-point option, it would have likely been closer to 20 percent, as in years past.

But what about the students who chose zero? Shouldn't they get a reward for their actions? Well, after the class discussion, I invited students who received two or six points to make a donation to the students who chose zero. This semester, 3 students each volunteered to give one point away to their self-sacrificing peers who had helped make their points possible.

The zero-point option essentially imposes an added cost to choosing six points. When students understood this, more of them opted for moderate consumption. So how do we apply these concepts to stop climate change? One way is through carbon pricing. This strategy treats climate change as a market failure that requires market-based solutions.

The House and Senate recently introduced the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, which would place a gradually increasing fee on carbon-pollution. The money collected will be distributed to American families, to manage rising energy costs and help make the switch to renewable energies. This proposed legislation is similar to policies in other nations we normally trade with. It's also bipartisan, and there are good reasons that both Democrats and Republicans in Congress support it. Liberals may be especially motivated to preserve biodiversity and protect vulnerable populations from the effects of climate change, whereas conservatives may be motivated by patriotic duty to strengthen our country's national security. Not to mention the fact that carbon emissions are associated with noxious pollutants that contaminate our water and air. Everyone has a stake in this.

By putting a price on carbon, we can effectively reduce overconsumption of fossil fuels, while keeping our country's economy strong. Polls show that a majority of Americans are concerned about climate change and, in the wake of record-breaking storms, are ready for a "green new deal."

If we're going to solve the existential threat of climate change, we need to use all of the tools in our psychological toolkit. This includes recognizing the dilemma we all face between self-interest and loyalty to our American community. People may have a variety of different motivations and values, but in this case, they can all build toward the same common goals.

WHO

From Page 10

There would be a robust conversation about American manufacturing and a focus on Americans working to get by.

Other state capitals are bigger, but no matter which state he selects it would force open a conversation about what other regions of the country need and whether Washington is meeting its obligations.

Our one caution would be not to turn try to turn the speech into a rally, to steer clear of turning it into a partisan assault on political foes. He also needs to be mindful to meet the actual Constitutional require, so he might have to send a copy of his speech up to Capitol Hill. If so, he should do so. Check all the official boxes. The speech needs to reflect the dignity of the office of the presidency in tone as well as location.

And if the president takes the speech out of Washington, he would need to stud it with new ideas. Maybe he could sketch a rural agenda. Perhaps he'd point to criminal justice reform and recent legislation taking on the opioid crisis as examples of how the country can address pressing needs. He could offer a vision for the type of trade deal he is looking for and sketch out his thoughts on national security, but he would be best served if he stepped back and offered ideas aimed at bolstering the prospects of what is sometimes called "the forgotten man," the person left out when prosperity comes to some.

He would do well if he spent time acknowledging where we are as a country today, and he would likely need to talk about his role in feeding the fires of fury. But he would need to also offer a positive vision for the future. We know such a speech would be high stakes. And we wonder if he has such a speech in him. If he flubbed it, he'd give up his best shot at resetting the political debate and would likely never live down the decision. But then, if he offered the right vision that supported the ideas that have a real chance for improving people's lives, he might just get something done this year.

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Gillette commercial backlash proves men need more hugs

By SHANNON GREEN
Orlando Sentinel

Dylan Selterman is a senior lecturer in the Psychology Department at the University of Maryland.

Gillette made a commercial asking men to take the lead in showing more empathy and compassion toward mankind — which makes sense when you consider that historically, the entire default of American society including our language and laws were set by and for white men.

This rubbed thousands of men and even some women, including "The View" co-host Megan McCain, the wrong way.

Some said it was an attack on traditional masculinity, which McCain in a roundabout way described as liking guns and fighting.

Some said it cast blame on all men—even though the commercial pointed out that there were good men doing positive things.

Several people just didn't like that a shaving company delivered a message about social responsibility.

Shaving companies, some said, shouldn't have stances. Except, that selling views is why the entire advertising and marketing industry exists. Starbucks isn't just selling you $6 coffee, it's selling culture. In the dark ages, cigarette companies used to sell people on the idea that smoking was healthy and dishwasher soap companies sold the idea that only women belonged in the kitchen "fighting greasy pots and pans." That is, until an 11-year-old Meghan Markle, the future Duchess of Sussex, lobbied for sexist commercials like that to end. As a result, Proctor and Gamble changed the word "women" to "people."

There is a long and storied history about this industry and hidden messaging.

Gillette's message was out in the open for everybody to see and it was positive.

I have no more problem with Gillette's broad messaging about social responsibility than I did when the company used UCF alum and Seattle Seahawks linebacker Shaquem Griffin to sell a message about overcoming adversity.

That's just good advertising.

The majority of the responses were positive. But several people registered the message as an assault on manhood, commercialism and, yes, even Republicans.

One Facebook comment from a poster named Matthew Celeste Rich said the commercial was promoting a "left wing political ad" and was splitting its consumer base.

Let me add empathy to the list of political weapons this week along with Big Macs.

But a Facebook comment from a poster who called himself Matthew Thomas Novak and identified himself as 47 years old got to the heart of the issue. He said the commercial added to the "pussification" of the American male.

The same Facebook account also showed a meme of a woman's backside with the following words: "Money can't buy you happiness but hookers and coke don't make me sad either."

For extra context, the commenter shows him in the "traditional masculinity" garb, a camo hat and rifle.

But I don't want to lambast this comment for its crude and vile commentary like so many others did.

Honestly speaking, the commenter and men like him really need a hug and some therapy.

According to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, men represent 77 percent of the estimated 45,000 suicides in America every year. Middle-aged white men account for the highest suicide rate among all racial groups.

ABC created an entire series called "A Million Little Things" based on the suicide of one man — not long, in fact, after Anthony Bourdain's suicide shocked the world last year.

I think a lot of men who struggled with this commercial could be struggling with something much deeper.

Remember, Gillette didn't solely focus on men being better advocates for women. It also depicted a young boy crying and being consoled by his mother. It also showed two instances of dads breaking up fights among boys.

The commercial used the vehicle of the "MeToo" movement to further a larger discussion about emotional well-being and empathy.

Don't miss the entire forest for a few burning trees here.

Culture is shifting and younger generations are growing up with the understanding that it is OK to cry and be strong. Men and women are speaking out about sexual assault with Terry Crews, who is featured in the commercial, serving as a brave example. More men are taking on the heroic fight women have been waging for decades on time management between career and kids.

A 29-year-old Orlando resident named Marlon Gutierrez even started an Orlando Dads meetup group for men looking to support other men in being better fathers. Gutierrez started the group, which has 125 members, two years ago after he took a marketing job that allowed him to work from home so he could help raise his newborn daughter.

These are intimidating times for older traditionalists and younger men with similar mindsets because they were raised by stoic fathers and mothers who pushed unhealthy narratives about manhood.

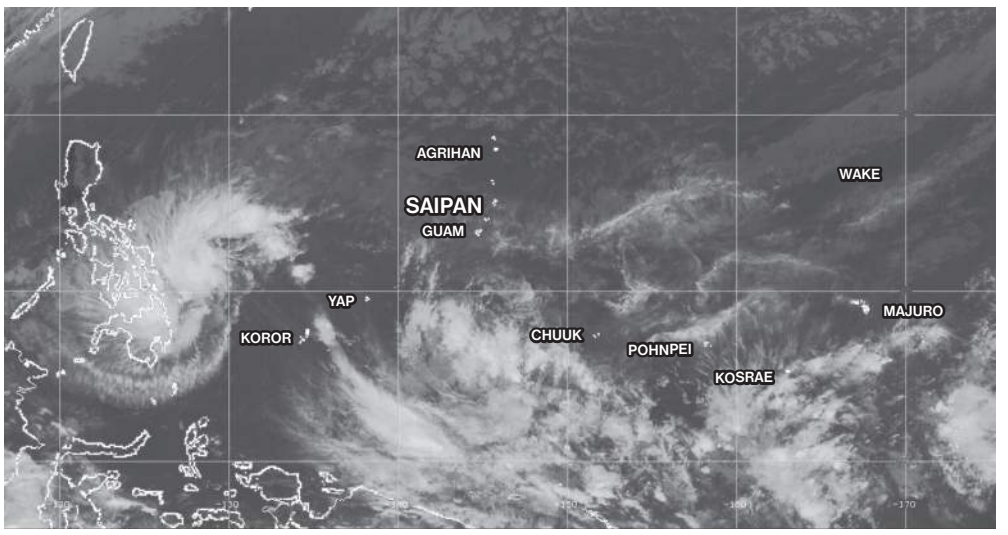
But times are changing and if you want to be a better man and in, some cases, alive in 2019, it's time you stop fighting and start healing.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:05 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Only a few tweaks made to the forecast. Showers over the Marianas will decrease through the morning. Earlier forecast had skies becoming partly cloudy today. Nighttime visible satellite imagery showed extensive clouds over the area and it is doubtful that they would decrease during the day. Kept mostly cloudy skies through the day becoming partly cloudy tonight. Models keep much of the week relatively dry. A circulation will pass far to the south of the Marianas the second half of the coming week. Low-level convergence north of the circulation will generate scattered showers over the Marianas Thursday through Friday. High pressure building off of Asia will help cause breezy conditions over the Marianas today.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	48° / 21°
Hong Kong	Sunny	66° / 55°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 69°
London	Mostly Sunny	43° / 34°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	65° / 48°
Manila	Cloudy	88° / 73°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	90° / 64°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	67° / 64°
New York	Mostly Sunny	19° / 9°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 41°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	43° / 30°
Busan	Sunny	50° / 34°
Rome	Rain	54° / 39°
Salem	Sunny	49° / 32°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 49°
Seoul	Sunny	43° / 19°
Tokyo	Sunny	55° / 36°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	21° / 14°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:35 AM	HIGH TIDE	-0.72
8:39 AM	LOW TIDE	2.07
2:01 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.18
6:58 PM	LOW TIDE	2.13

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:29 AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	-	7:29 AM	7:19 PM
Wednesday	-	8:25 AM	8:23 PM
Thursday	-	9:16 AM	9:24 PM
Friday	-	10:04 AM	10:22 PM

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U86486	10:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183 via GUM	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA117/193 GUM-ROR	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:

TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

UOG fetes outstanding alumni

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam is excited to announce the names of the winners for the 2018 University of Guam Distinguished Alumni Awards. The awards were handed out last Nov. 17, at the all-class annual UOG alumni reunion at the Dusit Thani. Winners were selected by a panel of judges which included key UOG leaders, representatives of the UOG Alumni Association and notable community judges. One award was given to each graduate of the University's schools and colleges as well as to an alum who is retired from the military or actively serving in the military.

Denney

Margaret "Peggy" Denney

College of Natural and Applied Sciences

B.S. Agriculture, UOG, 2001

i*recycle Program Administrator

Canos

Dr. Ronald Canos

School of Education

Masters in Education, Administration and Supervision, UOG, 2006

High School Teacher, Simon Sanchez High School, Fine Arts Program

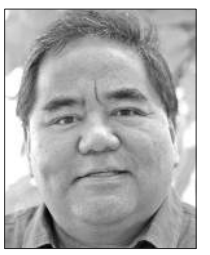
Reyes

Valerie Reyes

School of Nursing and Health Sciences

M.A., Counseling, UOG, 2010

Salvation Army Lighthouse Recovery Center Director


Rapadas

Dr. Juan Rapadas

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

B.A. in Psychology, UOG, 1989

University of Hawaii - Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology

Clinical Psychologist, Client Service and Family Counseling Division, Judiciary of Guam

Deliquina

Gener Deliquina

School of Business and Public Administration

BBA Major in Accounting and Minor in Management, UOG, 1992

Chief Executive Officer, Coast360

Cruz

Brigadier General Diron Cruz

Military

B.A. Business Management, UOG 1985

Assistant Adjutant General – Army, Guam Army National Guard

Award Selection Criteria:

All nominees' application packets were rated in the following areas: 1) Professional accomplishment in the field: has the nominee attained a high level of distinction and achievement through scholarship, research, teaching, creative contributions to the arts (comprising Humanities, Performing and Fine Arts, Social Sciences and Business) or sciences (comprising Science, Engineering and Health Sciences) and/or service to society? 2) Does the candidate exhibit a high degree of character and integrity? 3) Does the candidate show civic and University involvement, awareness and concern? 4)Does the nominee's achievements have local, national and/or international significance?

The awards are expected to be given out in 2019 again. A call for nominations will take place starting in June of this year.

For more information, please contact Norman Analista, Director, Development & Alumni Affairs, University of Guam at 797-3333 or email analistan@triton-.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

Guam, federal officials join efforts to recover whale

SANTA RITA, Guam—Guam and federal environmental and wildlife officials joined efforts after finding a whale on the reef flats off the waters of Agat Jan. 17.

At 7am, the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) responded to a whale located on the reef flat in the waters off of Agat Cemetery. The team was able to push the 11-foot, 1,000-lb beaked whale back into the ocean. However, an hour later, the whale was spotted again. This time on the reef flat off of Dadi Beach on U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG).

Teams from multiple local and federal offices responded including DAWR; Department of Agriculture conversation officers; NBG Environmental, Dive Locker and Security; Army veterinarians; and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

After the whale was washed up again on Dadi Beach, the whale was recovered and brought to DAWR office for a necropsy and further examination.

The public is reminded that if you spot a beached whale—do not approach it. Contact enforcement authorities including DAWR at 735-0281/0294 or the Guam Police. ***(PR)***

FOR 8TH STRAIGHT YEAR

Bank of Guam offers $10K in college scholarships

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is offering graduating high school seniors the opportunity to earn a $2,000 scholarship to attend college. This is the eighth consecutive year that the Bank has offered this opportunity to students in the region, who are graduating high school seniors.

» 5 awardees to receive $2K each

Applications are now available for its 2019 IFIT Scholarship Program via the Bank's online website (www-.bankofguam.com) or by requesting a copy from communications-@bankofguam.com.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

■ Reside in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or San Francisco, California;

■ Be a graduating high school senior, Class of 2019 (copies of transcripts and SAT and/or ACT scores required);

■ Submit an application by March 8, 2019 to Bank of Guam, ATTN: Communications Department;

■ Submit three (3) letters of recommendation: two (2) from a teacher or administrator from the student's high school and one (1) from a reference of choice; and

■ Submit answers to three (3) essay questions (please see brochure for additional rules), and a one minute video clip about the applicant.

The scholarship will be available for use at any four-year U.S. accredited college or university. Up to 10 semifinalists will be selected by April 2019 and will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to a U.S. accredited four-year college or university. The final five recipients will be announced by May 2019.

Please contact Chelsey Ting at (671) 472-5179, or chelsey.ting@bankofguam-.com for any information. ***(PR)***

PCC Board of Trustees holds annual organizational meeting

Palau Community College Board of Trustees held its annual organizational meeting on Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

The Republic of Palau Public Law 4-2, cited as the Higher Education Act of 1992, mandates that members of the PCC Board of Trustees meet each year in order to elect its officers and establish its calendar of regular meetings.

During their annual meeting last Monday, the trustees voted unanimously to elect Rev. Billy G. Kuartei as the new chairman of the college Board of Trustees, Romana Wong as the new vice chairperson, and Minister of Health Dr. Emais Roberts as secretary and treasurer.

Thus, the new officers of the PCC Board of Trustees are as follows: Rev. Billy G. Kuartei, chairman; Romana Wong, vice chairperson; Dr. Emais Roberts, secretary/treasurer; and Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl, member and Student Trustee Kirah I. Rebelkuul.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Palau Community College Board of Trustees pose for a group photo after its annual organizational meeting last, Jan. 14.

Secretary/treasurer Dr. Roberts will succeed former chair Emesiochl to represent the Board on the three-member College of Micronesia Board of Regents.

In addition, the PCC Board of Trustees organized its standing committee.Academic Program Committee-chairman, trustee Emesiochl; Finance/Personnel Committee-chairman, trustee Roberts; Facilities-chairman, trustee Kuartei, and Student Affairs Committee-chairperson Student trustee Rebelkuul. All committee include key college officials as ex-hoc members.

The annual organizational meeting of the PCC Board of Trustees is held on the second Monday of January of each year.

The board has one vacant seat and looks forward to working with President of the Republic of Palau Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. to fill the sole vacancy. ***(PR)***

Taitague wants to close loophole on ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel law

GUAM—Guam Sen. Telo Taitague filed Bill 25 to close a loophole in Guam's Ultra-low Sulfur Diesel Fuel Standard Law (P.L. 30-184), which was recently brought to her attention. The now eight-year old policy requires all diesel fuel—imported to Guam for the purpose of sale and distribution—to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. Guam law recognizes fuel containing fifteen parts per million (15ppm) or less of sulfur content as ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel.

However, P.L. 30-184 doesn't cover waste oil that's reprocessed and may be used for power generation plants. According to information provided to Taitague, the loophole has allowed the Guam Power Authority to utilize reprocessed waste oil it collects from local sources. In 2016, a year after Cabras Units 3 and 4 caught fire, local media reported that the Consolidated Commission on Utilities was informed by GPA that waste oil would no longer be used in Cabras Units 1 and 2. The report also indicated that both units are more than 40 years old, are in poor condition, and continued burning of waste oil may depreciate their reliability even further.

In addition to the planned 180-megawatt power plant in Dededo and the integration of renewable energy programs, Taitague wants to ensure that Guam's ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel law "helps GPA in its ongoing efforts to comply with U.S. EPA emission regulations – and protects ratepayers from more than $150 million in potential fines. Updating the ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel standard law, which I authored during my first term, is both a priority and responsibility I take seriously as a member of the 35th Guam Legislature."

"Protecting our fragile environment requires decision-makers and community stakeholders to work together on issues that impact families now and into the future. Bill 25 is a good step forward in our work to create a cleaner and healthier Guam."

Similar proposals broadening P.L. 30-184 to cover fuel for boilers and diesel-powered generators either mobile or stationary on Guam are included in a report prepared in late 2010 by the Ultra-low Sulfur Diesel Task Force led by Guam EPA. However, amendments have yet to be made to P.L. 30-184

For additional information regarding this press release, please contact Taitague's office at 989-8356 or send an e-mail to senatortelot@gmail-.com. ***(PR)***

Business

China slump squeezes workers, hammers consumer spending

BEIJING (AP)—Yu Mingang had a good job helping Chinese manufacturers prepare to sell shares to the public until the cooling economy derailed those plans.

As demand for auditing services sank, the 25-year-old accountant in the eastern city of Hangzhou was laid off in December. Yu tightened his belt: No more movies or eating out. He put off buying a computer.

"I pay rent out of my savings," Yu said.

The downturn is squeezing urban workers and entrepreneurs the ruling Communist Party is counting on to help transform China from a low-wage factory into a prosperous consumer market.

Headline economic numbers still look healthy. Growth in 2019 is forecast at more than 6 percent, down only slightly from about 6.5 percent last year. But it is propped up by higher government spending, which masks sharp declines in other areas. Those are spooking the public and discouraging spending, which could make the downturn worse.

AP

In this Jan. 1, 2019, photo, a worker monitors rolls of fabric at a dyeing factory in Hangzhou in east China's Zhejiang province.

A tariff war with Washington over Beijing's technology ambitions is adding to anxiety over job losses and tumbling sales of cars, real estate and consumer goods.

"I am worried about my job security and have cut spending on everything including clothes, vacations and changing smartphones," said He Siying, who works for an investment consulting firm in Beijing.

He, 32, was rattled when friends were laid off. One found a new job but the employer wanted her to work six days a week.

"I really dare not spend much," said He, who has a 1-year-old son.

That anxiety is hitting China's trading partners and global companies that increasingly count on Chinese consumers.

Apple Inc., General Motors Co., jeweler Tiffany & Co. and others say sales are down. Auto purchases shrank in 2018 for the first time in three decades. Japan and South Korea report lower exports of components for smartphones and other electronics sold in China.

The decline in economic growth that peaked above 14 percent in 2007 is partly intentional. Regulators clamped down on lending in late 2017 to cool a debt boom. But the downturn was sharper than expected.

The private sector has been hit hard.

"Many people have been laid off. People are having a hard time finding a new job and are panicking," said Summer Li, a 28-year-old product manager for an electronics company.

Yu, the Hangzhou accountant, said he lost his 100,000-yuan-a-year ($14,000-a-year) job after demand for auditing services fell by one-third. Clients put off plans for stock market listings after profits sank below the level required by regulators.

"It happened due to the bad economic situation," he said.

The ruling party promised in 2013 to support entrepreneurs who create China's new jobs and wealth. But reform advocates complain President Xi Jinping's government has instead focused on expanding state-owned companies that dominate oil, banking and other industries.

Jolted by the deepening slump, Xi and other leaders have pledged to help private business by cutting taxes and regulation.

Premier Li Keqiang, the top economic official, met with bankers in December and told them to make 30 percent of new loans to private business, state media reported. The central bank announced a 100 billion yuan ($14 billion) loan fund on Dec. 19 for small companies.

Exports to the United States held up through late 2018 despite President Donald Trump's tariff hikes. But sales shrank 3.5 percent in December compared with a year earlier as those penalties started to hurt demand.

Jittery companies and consumers already were putting off investments and big purchases.

"Consumer confidence is weaker and uncertainty has increased. The U.S.-China trade war is feeding into that," said Rajiv Biswas, chief Asia-Pacific economist for IHS Markit. "That is obviously a risk to the growth outlook for 2019."

The slowdown is adding to pressure from wrenching changes in jobs and industry that already were under way.

The ruling party has wiped out millions of steel and coal mining jobs in a marathon campaign to shrink those bloated state-owned industries.

Since 2017, Beijing, Shanghai and other big cities have forced out migrant workers who lack official permission to live there. Local leaders say they want to reduce crowding, but restaurants, retailers and other companies depend on migrants as employees and increasingly as customers.

The sales manager at a Beijing dealership for one of China's biggest automakers said purchases have fallen by half. He blamed the departure of migrants who buy lower-priced models starting at 50,000 yuan ($7,000).

"Many such customers returned to their hometowns because there wasn't much work for them," said the manager, who asked that he and his employer not be identified by name. "Sales of high-end cars also plunged because the buyers own businesses serving migrant workers."

Overall, disposable consumer income rose by a relatively healthy 5.7 percent in the first three quarters of 2018, but that was down from 2017's 6.6 percent. Retail sales growth fell to a lower-than-expected 8.6 percent from a year earlier in November, its weakest rate in five months.

Construction, the industry that powered China's boom in past decades, also is struggling.

Some cash-strapped developers in China's northwest have resorted to paying contractors by giving them apartments, according to Anne Stevenson-Yang of J Capital Research, a financial research firm.

Travel industry fears damage from a long government shutdown

America's busiest airport, Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International, is a blur of activity on the best of days. But an extra layer of anxiety gripped the airport Friday, the eve of a three-day holiday weekend. The partial government shutdown—the longest ever—has thinned the ranks of federal workers who staff airport security lines. And some travelers had braced for the worst.

"I have a 3 o'clock flight, and I arrived at 10:15 a.m.," Beth Lambert said while waiting to check in at a Delta Air Lines counter as her 5-year-old, Michael, rode around on his wheeled bag like a scooter. "We're going to be hanging out for a while."

The scene at most of the nation's airports has so far been marked more by concerned passengers showing up early than by missed flights. Longer lines are evident at some airports. But delays resulting from a rise in federal security screeners calling in sick have been slight.

Yet concern is quickly growing. President Donald Trump and Democrats in Congress remain far apart over Trump's insistence on funding for a wall along the Mexican border as the price of reopening the government. With the two sides trading taunts and avoiding talks, travel industry analysts and economists have been calculating the potential damage should the shutdown drag into February or beyond.

Airlines and hotels would suffer. So would parks and restaurants that cater to travelers. And, eventually, the broader U.S. economy, already absorbing a trade war with China and a global economic slowdown, would endure another blow.

The travel and tourism industries generate about $1.6 trillion in U.S. economic activity—one-twelfth of the economy—and one in 20 jobs, according to the Commerce Department. Macroeconomic Advisers says it now expects the economy to expand at just a 1.4 percent annual rate in the first three months of this year, down from its previous forecast of 1.6 percent, because of reduced government spending during the shutdown.

America's air-travel system will face its sternest this weekend, which coincides with Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, a federal holiday.

On the shop floor, workers wonder what Brexit will bring

LONDON (AP)—It's an understatement to say that Michael O'Brien is worried about Brexit.

O'Brien is a supervisor at Clarity-The Soap Co., which employs visually impaired adults at a factory in east London. A tall man with a thatch of gray hair, O'Brien has a manner so easy that it sounds as if he is talking about the weather rather than an issue that bitterly divides British society—the country's looming departure from the European Union.

"(This job) means everything to me," he said, standing beside a machine that magnifies documents so he can track invoices. "When I came here 4 ½ years ago, I was in a bad way. I got (laid off) from my last job, didn't think I'd work again. And I came here and it's given me a lifeline."

Amid the rancor and political bickering that this week sent Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal down to the biggest defeat in history, people across the U.K. are worried about what the impasse in Parliament means for them and their families. The anxiety is palpable at Clarity, where people understand that jobs can be precious and hard to come by.

The company traces its roots to 1854 as a social enterprise that employs people with disabilities: Queen Victoria was its first patron and Charles Dickens supported it. Clarity has survived two World Wars, the Blitz and the Great Depression, so Brexit should be a piece of cake. But uncertainty about what rules will apply to trade with the European Union after Britain leaves the bloc is crimping the company's ability to plan for the future.

Before Britain voted to leave the EU in June 2016, Clarity was preparing to increase production as part of an effort to expand its offering of high-end products, including soaps hand made in the Lake District in northern England. The company dreams of adding another one or two production lines at its factory in east London and adding to its 115-person workforce, but has had to refocus energy on planning for Brexit, spending hard-earned cash to stockpile ingredients.

Nation

Democrats aren't buying Trump's shutdown-ending 'compromise'

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a bid to break the shutdown stalemate, President Donald Trump offered to extend temporary protections for young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children and those fleeing disaster zones in exchange for his long-promised border wall. But while Trump cast the move as a "commonsense compromise," Democrats were quick to dismiss it at a "non-starter."

With polls showing a majority of Americans blaming him and Republicans for the impasse, Trump said from the White House that he was there "to break the logjam and provide Congress with a path forward to end the government shutdown and solve the crisis on the southern border."

Hoping to put pressure on Democrats, the White House billed the announcement as a major step forward. But Trump did not budge on his $5.7 billion demand for the wall and, in essence, offered to temporarily roll-back some of his own hawkish immigration actions — actions that have been blocked by federal courts.

Following a week marked by his pointed clashes with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, it was not clear if Trump's offer would lead to serious steps to reopen the government, shut for a record 29 days. Trump's move came as hundreds of thousands of federal workers go without paychecks, with many enduring financial hardship. Many public services are unavailable to Americans during the closure.

Democrats dismissed Trump's proposal even before his formal remarks. Pelosi said the expected offer was nothing more than "a compilation of several previously rejected initiatives" and that the effort could not pass the House

"What is original in the President's proposal is not good. What is good in the proposal is not original," she later tweeted.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer also panned the proposal as "more hostage taking," saying that it was Trump who had "singlehandedly" imperiled the future of the immigrants he proposed to help.

The New York Democrat said there is only "one way out" of the shutdown. "Open up the government, Mr. President, and then Democrats and Republicans can have a civil discussion and come up with bipartisan solutions." he said.

Democrats had made their own move late Friday to try to break the impasse when they pledged to provide hundreds of millions of dollars more for border security. But Trump, who has yet to acknowledge that offer, laid out his own plan, which officials said had been in the works for days.

Seeking to cast the plan as a bipartisan way forward, Trump said Saturday he was incorporating ideas from "rank-and-file" Democrats, as top Democrats made clear they had not been consulted. He also said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell would bring the legislation to a vote this week, though Democrats appeared likely to block it. McConnell had previously stated that no vote should be held in the Senate until Trump and Democrats agreed on a bill.

Trump's plan seems to stand little chance of getting the 60 votes needed in the Senate. Chris Coons of Delaware, a Democrat the White House has looked to as a possible partner on immigration negotiations, said he will not support it. And Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, another key centrist, said she would study the details of the plan but did not commit to vote for it.

She added of the shutdown: "This needs to end now."

Trump's remarks from the Diplomatic Room marked the second time he has addressed the nation as the partial shutdown drags on. On this occasion, he sought to strike a diplomatic tone, emphasizing the need to work across the aisle. He maintained a border barrier was needed to block what he describes as the flow of drugs and crime into the country — but described "steel barriers in high-priority locations" instead of "a 2,000-mile concrete structure from sea to sea."

AP

President Donald Trump speaks about the partial government shutdown, immigration and border security in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House, in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019.

A scaled-down, but still angry, Women's March returns

WASHINGTON (AP)—Amid internal controversies and a capital city deeply distracted by the partial government shutdown, the third Women's March returned to Washington on Saturday with an enduring message of anger and defiance aimed directly at President Donald Trump's White House.

The original march in 2017, the day after Trump's inauguration, flooded the city with pink-hatted protesters. The exact size of the turnout remains subject to a politically charged debate, but it's generally regarded as the largest Washington protest since the Vietnam era.

This year was a more modest affair for multiple reasons. An estimated 100,000 protesters packed several blocks around Freedom Plaza, just east of the White House, holding a day-long rally. The march itself took about an hour and only moved about four blocks west along Pennsylvania Avenue past the Trump International Hotel before looping back to Freedom Plaza.

Organizers submitted a permit application estimating up to 500,000 participants even though it was widely expected that the turnout would be smaller. The original plan was to gather on the National Mall. But with the forecast calling for snow and freezing rain and the National Park Service no longer plowing snow because of the shutdown, organizers on Thursday changed the march's location and route.

As it turned out the weather was chilly but otherwise pleasant, and the mood among the marchers a now-familiar mix of sister-power camaraderie and defiant anger toward Trump and the larger power structure. As always the Trump administration was the direct target of most of the abuse—with fresh bitterness stemming from more recent events like Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's successful confirmation last fall despite a direct accusation of sexual misconduct when he was in high school.

One sign declared, "Strong women only fear weak men." Another stated, "MOOD: Still pretty mad about Kavanaugh."

Parallel marches took place in dozens of cities around the country.

In Los Angeles, a few hundred demonstrators gathered in Pershing Square downtown and marched to Grand Park as the crowd swelled to thousands.

"Democracy is not a spectator sport and I came out to continue to stand for that proposition, said Ellen Klugman of Marina Del Rey. "If I don't go, who will?"

Students in 'MAGA' hats mock Native American after rally

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP)—A diocese in Kentucky apologized Saturday after videos emerged showing students from a Catholic boys' high school mocking Native Americans outside the Lincoln Memorial after a rally in Washington.

The Indigenous Peoples March in Washington on Friday coincided with the March for Life, which drew thousands of anti-abortion protesters, including a group from Covington Catholic High School in Park Hills.

Videos circulating online show a youth staring at and standing extremely close to Nathan Phillips, a 64-year-old Native American man singing and playing a drum.

Other students, some wearing Covington clothing and many wearing "Make America Great Again" hats and sweat shirts, surrounded them, chanting, laughing and jeering.

In a joint statement, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington and Covington Catholic High School apologized to Phillips. Officials said they are investigating and will take "appropriate action, up to and including expulsion."

"We extend our deepest apologies to Mr. Phillips," the statement read. "This behavior is opposed to the Church's teachings on the dignity and respect of the human person."

According to the "Indian Country Today" website, Phillips is an Omaha elder and Vietnam veteran who holds an annual ceremony honoring Native American veterans at Arlington National Cemetery.

Marcus Frejo, a member of the Pawnee and Seminole tribes who is also known as Chief Quese Imc, said he had been a part of the march and was among a small group of people remaining after the rally when the boisterous students began chanting slogans such as "Make America great" and then began doing the haka, a traditional Maori dance.

In a phone interview, Frejo told The Associated Press he felt they were mocking the dance and also heckling a couple of black men nearby.

One 11-minute video of the confrontation shows the Haka dance and students loudly chanting before Phillips and Frejo approached them. The footage doesn't show any black person being being heckled, but one black man with a camera smiles as he shoots footage of the group.

Frejo said he joined Phillips to defuse the situation, singing the anthem from the American Indian Movement with both men beating out the tempo on hand drums.

Although he feared a mob mentality that could turn ugly, Frejo said he was at peace singing despite the scorn. He briefly felt something special happen as they repeatedly sang the tune.

"They went from mocking us and laughing at us to singing with us. I heard it three times," Frejo said. "That spirit moved through us, that drum, and it slowly started to move through some of those youths."

Eventually a calm fell over the group of students and they broke up and walked away.

"When I was there singing, I heard them saying 'Build that wall, build that wall,'" Phillips said, as he wiped away tears in a video posted on Instagram. "This is indigenous lands. We're not supposed to have walls here. We never did."

Asia

Trump says 'things are going very well' with North Korea

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said Saturday that "things are going very well with North Korea" and he plans a second summit with leader Kim Jong Un to try to broker a deal that would entice the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

"We've agreed to meet sometime probably the end of February. We've picked a country, but we'll be announcing it in the future. Kim Jong Un is looking very forward to it and so am I," the president told reporters Saturday at the White House.

The initial news of a second meeting with the reclusive North Korean leader came after Trump's 90-minute session Friday in the Oval Office with a North Korean envoy, Kim Yong Chol, who traveled to Washington to discuss denuclearization talks.

"We have made a lot of progress as far as denuclearization is concerned and we're talking about a lot of different things," Trump said, adding it's "not been reported, unfortunately, but it will be. Things are going very with North Korea."

In May, North Korea released three American detainees and sent them home with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo after his meeting with the North Korean leader in Pyongyang.

The second summit signals stepped-up efforts by both countries to continue talks. Trump has exchanged letters with the North Korean leader amid little tangible progress on the vague denuclearization agreement reached at their first meeting last June in Singapore.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said "it's high time" for serious negotiations between the United States and North Korea to outline a road map for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The U.N. chief said New York on Friday that would allow both sides "to know exactly what the next steps will be, and to have predictability in the way negotiations take place."

Trump has spoken several times of having a second summit early this year. Vietnam has been considered as a possible summit venue, along with Thailand, Hawaii and Singapore.

Since the Singapore talks, several private analysts have published reports detailing continuing North Korean development of nuclear and missile technology. A planned meeting between Pompeo and the envoy, who is North Korea's former spy chief, in New York last November was abruptly canceled. U.S. officials said at the time that North Korea had called off the session.

The special U.S. envoy for North Korea negotiations, Steve Biegun, planned to travel to Sweden for further talks over the weekend.

The talks have stalled over North Korea's refusal to provide a detailed accounting of its nuclear and missile facilities that would be used by inspectors to verify any deal to dismantle them. The North also has demanded that the U.S. end harsh economic penalties and provide security guarantees before it takes any steps beyond its initial suspension of nuclear and missile tests.

Harry Kazianis, a North Korea expert at the Center for National Interest, said any talks between the two nations are a positive development, but the hard work of negotiating an agreement has only begun.

As a possible first step, Kazianis said, North Korea could agree to close its nuclear centrifuge facility at Yongbyon in exchange for some relief from U.S. sanctions or a peace declaration ending the Korean War. The three-year war between North and South Korea ended in 1953 with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

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AP

Protesters march during a rally supporting the United States' policy to put steady pressure on North Korea in Seoul, South Korea, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019.

Canada says it won't be deterred by Chinese pressure

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's public safety minister said Friday that the country won't be deterred by Chinese pressure after China threatened reprisals if Huawei was banned from supplying equipment for 5G networks, highlighting the growing rift between America's neighbor and the emerging superpower.

There are accusations that the telecom giant is controlled by China's ruling Communist Party or is required to facilitate Chinese spying. The U.S., Australia, Japan and other governments have imposed curbs on use of its technology.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said Canada has been abundantly clear it will not compromise national security.

"It's a difficult challenge but we'll not be deterred by what we believe to be right and what we believe to be in the interests of Canada," Goodale said.

Lu Shaye, China's ambassador to Canada, warned Thursday of repercussions if Canada bars the firm from its new 5G network.

"One of the things that is of concern in this situation is the blending of Chinese commercial interests with Chinese political positioning and consequences. That's something that I think should be of concern to Canadians and people around the world," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

Canada and its security agencies are studying whether to use equipment from Huawei as phone carriers prepare to roll out fifth-generation technology.

5G is designed to support a vast expansion of networks to facilitate medical devices, self-driving cars and other technology. That increases the risk of potential security failures and has prompted governments to treat telecom communications networks as strategic assets.

But the arrest of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou in Canada on Dec. 1 at the request of the United States has created a growing diplomatic rift between China and Canada. Meng is the chief financial officer of Huawei and the daughter of its founder.

The U.S. wants her extradited to face charges that she committed fraud by misleading banks about Huawei's business dealings in Iran.

China detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian entrepreneur Michael Spavor 10 days after Meng's arrest on allegations that they were "engaging in activities that endanger the national security" of China in an apparent attempt to pressure Canada to release her. China also sentenced another Canadian, Robert Schellenberg, to death Monday in a sudden retrial of his drug-smuggling case.

John McCallum, Canada's ambassador to China, said the path that China is on is not in their interest.

"It's not in the interests of corporate China if when they run into trouble internationally the Chinese government arrests people to use as bargaining chips," McCallum said. "That is the perception of much of the world and that is not good for the reputation of Chinese business people."

On Thursday, Lu warned Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland not to use next week's World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland, to press for support against China. He also said Canada's arrest of Meng was an act of "backstabbing" by Canada and called it "politically motivated."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Trump says trade deal with China 'could very well happen'

WASHINGTON (AP)—As trade talks between the U.S. and China move to Washington later this month, President Donald Trump is hopeful that the economic powers can find a way to end a costly tariff fight. Trump tells reporters that "we've really had a very extraordinary number of meetings and a deal could very well happen with China." U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer (LYT'-hy-zur) and China's economy czar, Vice Premier Liu He, are expected to hold talks at the end of January. Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) agreed on Dec. 1 to suspend further tariff increases for 90 days while they negotiate. The two sides have imposed tariff increase of up to 25 percent on billions of dollars of each other's goods.

Suspected Muslim rebels storm Thai temple, kill 2 monks

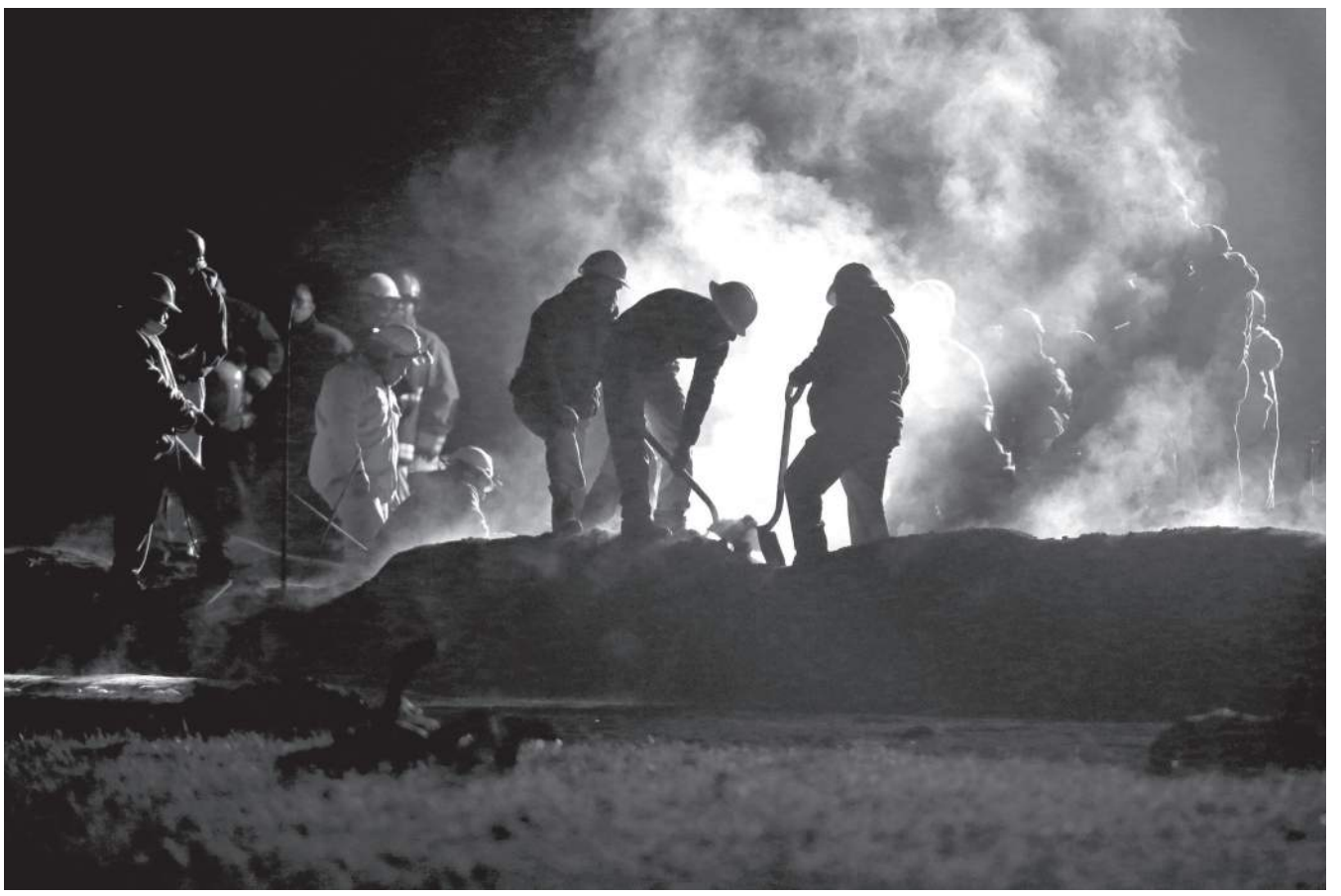
HAT YAI, Thailand (AP)—Gunmen presumed to be Muslim insurgents stormed a Buddhist temple in southern Thailand, killing two monks and wounding two others, police said Saturday. The Friday night attack in Narathiwat province was the latest in a recent upsurge of violence in the area, which since 2004 has been plagued by a separatist insurgency that has claimed about 7,000 lives. Narathiwat is one of Thailand's three southernmost provinces, the only ones with Muslim majorities in the Buddhist-dominated country. Witnesses described seeing armed men arrive at the temple on motorcycles, open fire with automatic weapons and then storm inside where they shot the monks in their quarters, according to Thai news report. One of those killed was the temple's abbot. The temple attack was one of several violent incidents in Narathiwat on Friday, including a roadside bombing that wounded five members of security forces, and a shootout between paramilitary rangers and five armed men that left one of the gunmen dead. The others escaped.

Thai military chief urges loyalty ahead of expected election

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's military held its annual Armed Forces Day parade on Friday as the country prepares for expected elections more than four years after soldiers overthrew an elected government. Army Commander in Chief Gen. Apirat Kongsompong, who presided over the ceremony, declined last October to rule out future army interventions in Thai political life, raising a storm of controversy. But his speech to soldiers on Friday steered clear of politics, making instead routine exhortations of loyalty to the king and the country. "We will sacrifice our physical and mental strength to protect the country and revere the king, and look after the people," he said. With elections expected shortly, political temperatures are rising, and pro-democracy activists have been demonstrating to pressure the government not to backslide on its promise to hold polls. Several times it has set dates for elections but then found excuses for pushing them back. It recently announced that a Feb. 24 election date it set months ago will not be possible.

World

Death toll reaches 73 in Mexico fuel pipeline fire horror



AP
Staff of Pemex, Petroleos Mexicanos, works the area of a oil pipeline explosion in Tlahuelilpan, Hidalgo state, Mexico, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019.

TLAHUELILPAN, Mexico (AP)—They were warned to stay away from the geyser of gasoline gushing from the illegally tapped pipeline in central Mexico, but Gerardo Perez says he and his son joined others in bypassing the soldiers. As they neared the spurting fuel he was overcome with foreboding.

Perez recalls telling his son: "Let's go ... this thing is going to explode."

And it did, with a fireball that engulfed locals scooping up the spilling gasoline and underscored the dangers of an epidemic of fuel theft from pipelines that Mexico's new president has vowed to fight.

By Saturday evening the death toll from Friday's blaze had risen to 73, with another 74 people injured and dozens more were missing.

Perez and his son escaped the flames. On Saturday, he returned to the scorched field in the town of Tlahuelilpan in Hidalgo state to look for missing friends. It was a fruitless task. Only a handful of the remains still had skin. Dozens were burned to the bone or to ash when the gusher of gasoline exploded.

Just a few feet from where the pipeline passed through an alfalfa field, the dead seem to have fallen in heaps, perhaps as they stumbled over each other or tried to help one another as the geyser of gasoline turned to flames.

Several of the deceased lay on their backs, their arms stretched out in agony. Some seemed to have covered their chests in a last attempt to protect themselves from the blast. A few corpses seemed to embrace each other in death. Lost shoes were scattered around a space the size of a soccer field. Closer to the explosion, forensic workers marked mounds of ash with numbers.

On Friday, hundreds of people had gathered in an almost festive atmosphere in a field where the duct had been perforated by fuel thieves and gasoline spewed 20 feet into the air.

State oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said the pipeline, which supplies much of central Mexico with fuel, had just reopened after being shut since Dec. 23 and that it had been breached 10 times over three months.

The tragedy came just three weeks after President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador launched an offensive against fuel theft gangs that have drilled dangerous, illegal taps into pipelines an astounding 12,581 times in the first 10 months of 2018, an average of about 42 per day. The crackdown has led to widespread fuel shortages at gas stations throughout the country as Pemex deviates distribution, both licit and illicit.

Lopez Obrador vowed on Saturday to continue the fight against a practice that steals about $3 billion per year in fuel.

He said the attorney general's office will investigate whether the explosion was intentional — caused by an individual or group — or whether the fireball occurred due to the inherent risk of clandestine fuel extraction. He called on townspeople to give testimony not only about Friday's events in Hidalgo, but about the entire black-market chain of fuel theft.

"I believe in the people, I trust in the people, and I know that with these painful, regrettable lessons, the people will also distance themselves from these practices," he said.

Lopez Obrador faces an uphill fight against a practice that locals say is deeply rooted in the poor rural areas where pipelines pass, covered by only a foot or two of dirt. In some cases, locals support the fuel thieves.

ACROSS THE NATION

Survivors: Up to 117 missing from sunken boat off Libya

ROME (AP)—Three survivors of a rubber dinghy that sank in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya say up to 117 other migrants were aboard at the time, a U.N. migration official said Saturday. It appeared to be the latest tragedy on the dangerous central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Europe. Flavio Di Giacomo of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) told Italian state TV that "unfortunately about 120" migrants were reported by survivors to have been on the overloaded smugglers' dinghy when it was launched from Libyan shores on Thursday evening. "After a few hours, it began sinking and people began drowning," Di Giacomo said. Among the missing are 10 women and two children, including a two-month-old baby, he said. Survivors indicated their fellow migrants came from Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Gambia and Sudan, Di Giacomo said.

Model in Russian court apologizes for US election claim

MOSCOW (AP)—A Belarusian model and self-styled sex instructor who last year claimed to have evidence of Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election said Saturday that she apologizes to a Russian tycoon for the claim and won't say more about the matter. Anastasia Vashukevich made the statement in a Moscow court that was considering whether to keep her in jail as she faces charges of inducement to prostitution. The court extended her detention for three more days. Vashukevich's statement appears to head off any chance of her speaking to U.S. investigators looking into possible collusion between Russia and President Donald Trump's campaign. Vashukevich, who goes by the name Nastya Rybka on social media, was arrested in Thailand last February on prostitution charges. She and several others were arrested in connection with a sex training seminar they were holding in Thailand.

US airstrike in Somalia kills 52 al-Shabab extremists

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The U.S. military on Saturday said it had carried out its deadliest airstrike in Somalia in months, killing 52 al-Shabab extremists after a "large group" mounted an attack on Somali forces. The U.S. Africa Command said the airstrike occurred near Jilib in Middle Juba region. There were no reports of Americans killed or wounded. The U.S. statement did not say whether any Somali forces were killed or wounded by the al-Qaida-linked extremists. Al-Shabab via its Shahada news agency asserted that its attack on two Somali army bases killed at least 41 soldiers. It described the location as the Bar Sanjuni area near the port city of Kismayo. There was no immediate comment from Somalia's government

Tshisekedi declared Congo's president, but runner-up revolts

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Congo's election crisis deepened early Sunday when the Constitutional Court confirmed the win of Felix Tshisekedi, rejecting claims of fraud, and runner-up Martin Fayulu promptly declared himself the country's "only legitimate president."

Fayulu's supporters have alleged an extraordinary backroom deal by outgoing President Joseph Kabila to rig the vote in favor of the opposition after the ruling party's candidate did so poorly that a Plan B was needed. Neither side has acknowledged the accusations.

The court, however, said Fayulu offered no proof to back his assertions that he had won easily based on leaked data attributed to the electoral commission.

Fayulu urged Congolese to take to the streets to peacefully protest what he called "constitutional coup d'etat," accusing the court of validating false results. "It's no secret ... that you have elected me president," he said.

Neither Congolese nor the international community should recognize Tshisekedi, nor obey him, Fayulu added.

Tshisekedi said early Sunday that the Constitutional Court's decision confirming him as the winner of the presidential election was a victory for the entire country.

"It is Congo that won," said Tshisekedi, speaking to his supporters after the court decision. "It is not the victory of one camp against another. I am engaged in a campaign to reconcile all Congolese. ... The Congo that we are going to form will not be a Congo of division, hatred or tribalism. It will be a reconciled Congo, a strong Congo that will be focused on development, peace and security."

The largely untested Tshisekedi, son of the late, charismatic opposition leader Etienne, is set to be inaugurated on Tuesday. His supporters who had gathered outside the court cheered.

"It's a shame that Mr. Fayulu wants to stay isolated," Tshisekedi's spokesman, Vidiye Tshimanga, told The Associated Press. He said the two men once had been part of an opposition coalition demanding that Kabila step down.

The new president will need everyone for the reconstruction of the country, Tshimanga said, as the Congolese people have "suffered a lot in recent years."

The court's declaration came shortly after the African Union in an unprecedented move asked Congo to delay announcing the final election results, citing "serious doubts" about the vote. It planned to send a high-level delegation on Monday to find a way out of the crisis, fearing unrest spilling across borders of the vast Central African nation.

Congo's government replied it was up to the courts.

The court turned away Fayulu's request for a recount in the Dec. 30 vote.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende quickly acknowledged the court's decision, congratulating Tshisekedi as Congo's fifth president.

The country of 80 million people, rich in the minerals key to smartphones around the world, is moving close to achieving its first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since independence in 1960.

But observers have warned that the court's upholding of the official results could lead to further unrest. At least 34 people have been killed since provisional results were released on Jan. 10, the United Nations has said.

Health & Wellness

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Mercedes Fernandez works out at GB3 Saturday morning, Jan. 5, 2019 in Clovis, Calif. Fernandez, 20, started Sadie's Ladies, a community of more than 100 members, to support women body builders.

Mercedes Fernandez works out with the battle ropes at GB3 Saturday morning, Jan. 5, 2019 in Clovis, Calif. Fernandez, 20, started Sadie's Ladies, a community of more than 100 members, to support women body builders.

ERIC PAUL ZAMORA/ FRESNO BEE/TNS

New Year's fitness resolutions already fading?

Here's some tips how to stay motivated

By BRYANT-JON ANTEOLA
THE FRESNO BEE

There's a sad statistic about those who've made losing weight and working out more a New Year's resolution.

By February, it's estimated that 80 percent of people give up their health and fitness New Year's resolution, according to a U.S. News & World report.

That, of course, doesn't have to be you.

And one Fresno State student who's turned her hobby of working out into a profession of helping others get fit has some advice on how to stay on the workout track and achieve those New Year's goals.

If … you're willing to "just put in a little bit of your time" and "some discipline," said Fernandez, founder of Missfit Personal Training and Sadie's Ladies, a community of over 100 members who help support women in fitness, including body builders.

"The most common obstacle people run into is finding time to work out," Fernandez said. "But did you realize that a one-hour workout is only 4 percent of your day?

"And if you know what you're doing, those 60 minutes is all you need 3-4 days a week to establish a healthy lifestyle change."

While some "regulars" at the gym might find it annoying when the new wave of people who are trying to achieve their New Year's resolution crowd the workout area in January, Fernandez said she finds the New Year inspiring.

ERIC PAUL ZAMORA/FRESNO BEE/TNS

Florina Fernendez, far left, Courtney Bianchi, second from left, Karla Crtz, and Mercedes Fernandez, far right, pose at GB3 Saturday morning, Jan. 5, 2019 in Clovis, Calif. Fernandez, 20, started Sadie's Ladies, a community of more than 100 members, to support women body builders.

"Those people are motivated to start the New Year right, and they're enthusiastic of what is to come," Fernandez said. "I love that energy. They're fired up.

"But consistency is key. You need consistent energy. People don't stay consistent because they sometimes want immediate results. But really, they just need to stay with it. Stay patient. Keep that fire."

Fernandez suggests working out with a friend to help keep you motivated; it also helps in holding each other accountable for working out.

Or use social media as a check-in to help hold yourself accountable, taking and posting a photo of you at the gym or a mere picture of the treadmill.

Hiring a personal trainer like Fernandez certainly could help get results.

But there's also the challenges that come outside of the gym, when your workout buddy might not be around and the personal trainer is no where to be found: eating habits.

"You can't out-train a poor diet," Fernandez said. "But again, it's establishing a healthy lifestyle and not just dieting for a short period of time.

"It's consistency with your workouts, and consistency with how you eat and what you eat."

Fernandez, who played multiple sports growing up, including softball at Clovis East High, said she understands that it's not easy staying on the fitness track.

She advised not getting discouraged by setbacks: "They happen to everybody, whether it's missing a workout or not eating as healthy as you should."

But get back to those healthy habits as quickly as you can, Fernandez added.

"You have to take it day by day, exercise by exercise," Fernandez said. "You can't be 100 percent motivated, 100 percent of the time. And that's OK.

"Just try to stick with it. Even if you don't see results right away, remember, you're improving your health and quality of life."

HOME REMEDIES

Cope with stress so it doesn't control you

If you find your home and work schedules full and life is causing you stress, be aware that it can take a toll on your health. Too much stress can affect your mood, making you anxious or restless. It can lead to negative behaviors, such as overeating or eating poorly. And it can attack your body, causing headaches, fatigue and other health problems.

Some stress is unavoidable, but you can learn to cope with it so stress doesn't control you.

Consider the four As of stress relief: Avoid, Alter, Accept, Adapt.

- Avoid situations you know to trigger your stress.
- Alter your perception to make the situation better.
- Accept the things you can't change.
- Adapt your standards and expectations to create less stressful situations.

Here are some ways to manage stress you can't avoid:

GET ACTIVE

Watching television, surfing the internet or playing video games might seem relaxing, but they are passive activities that can actually increase stress in the long run. To de-stress, try getting active instead. Get up, go for a walk, wash the car, do a little gardening—anything that gets you moving can help. Getting physical activity every day can help relieve stress.

CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

Here are some ways to clear your head when life begins to overwhelm you:

- Practice relaxation and positive thinking. This can alter your perception and calm you.
- Practice gratitude. By focusing on the good, rather than the stress, you can see things more positively and change your perception.
- Participate in activities that you enjoy.
- Learn how your body reacts to stress and teach yourself to take deep breaths, slow your heart rate and remain positive.
- Spend time with supportive people. Talk to those you trust about things that bother you.
- Write in a journal if you need a more private outlet than confiding in someone else.
- Understand your emotions. Are you really stressed, or just upset about something? Identifying the issue is the first step in fixing a problem.

MANAGE YOUR TIME, MAINTAIN PERSPECTIVE

If work is causing you stress, sharpen your time-management skills and maintain perspective:

- Set realistic goals, expectations and deadlines.
- Make a priority list. Prepare a list of tasks to complete, and rank them.
- Protect your time. Block time on your calendar to work without interruptions.
- Get other points of view. Talk to trusted colleagues about your situation and listen to them.
- Take a break. A few minutes of personal time can be refreshing.
- Have an outlet. Set aside time for an activity that you enjoy.
- Take care of yourself. Get physical activity, sleep, and eat a healthy diet. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Life & Style

BEA CABRERA

The ribbon-cutting ceremony at the opening of the Ladder Beach Restaurant in Ladder Beach held last Wednesday. From left, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero, Rep. Ivan Blanco, TLBR owner/president Hong Yang Zhu, Rep. Joseph Lee-Pan Guerrero, Rep. L.J. Castro, Rep, Ed Prospt, and TLBR HR and banquet manager Carmen Sablan-He.

The Ladder Beach Restaurant now open

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Standing on a 4,000-square-meter property that faces the Pacific Ocean, The Ladder Beach Restaurant held its grand opening last Wednesday signaling the start of one of the best seafood buffet offerings on island. It is located along the coastline of Ladder Beach on the south of Saipan.

"We are primarily a seafood buffet restaurant. We are serving different cuisines that will make use of fresh seafood like shrimps, octopus, mussels, crabs, and scallops from the Philippines, Malaysia, and China prepared by seven chefs… we are also trying to target our local fishermen from Rota, a good source of lobsters," TLBR administrative and banquet manager Carmen B. Sablan-He said.

"The atmosphere in the restaurant is a mix of fine dining and a family restaurant so that everybody—whether locals and tourists—will feel welcomed every time. We want our customers to feel the peaceful surroundings, to feel at home, enjoy the spacious area inside and outside the restaurant," she added

The 1,000-square-meter restaurant proper is indeed spacious as one may mistake the structure as a country club. It can accommodate 300 people, the open space surrounding the restaurant adds to the whole package as fresh air flows freely and the ocean waves strike the cliff and shores like a lullaby. At night, the whole place is romantically lit.

TLBR owner and president Hong Yan Zhu, a businesswoman who owns a chain of restaurants in China, said that while vacationing on Saipan two years ago she stumbled upon Ladder Beach and was totally mesmerized.

"I simply fell in love with the place…Saipan is very beautiful…the local people are kind and it is accessible to Chinese tourists and so I thought of bringing our tradition here and at the same time learning traditions of the island, sort of a cultural exchange through this restaurant," she said.

"Our chefs will prepare food that will make guests experience something new… We will continue to work hard to build a beautiful restaurant and enjoy the life over here as I would like to treat the local people like family," she added.

According to Sablan-He, they also serve ala-carte menus. "We have ala-carte menus that will start from appetizers, main entrees like prime rib, steak, pasta to name a few and desserts…We will have the usual local favorites, too like the kelaguen, sushi, sashimi… It's a very well-rounded restaurant that caters to different tastes," she said.

"We have spaces here at the restaurant that we can convert for conferences and workshops, weddings, birthdays, christenings etc. We can also tailor-fit a buffet menu for your party as you can make your own menu and we can prepare on the buffet line and then price is based on the selection that was chosen per person," she added

For the month of January, the TLBR is open for seafood dinner buffet on Saturday and Sunday only from 5:30pm to 9pm.

"But come February, we plan to regularize operations as we will open from Monday to Sunday 10am to 10pm serving ala-carte menus and buffets. Regular price is $98 per person for dinner buffet (inclusive of drinks) as we are trying to be competitive with the tour industry," Sablan-He said.

"Currently, we have an ongoing promo where dinner buffet only costs $79 per person from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, but if you come after 7:30 m then it's 50-percent off and we will only charge $39 for dinner buffet per person," she added.

Sablan-He said future plans include putting up bungalows around the restaurant and a bar with a dart board to accommodate happy hour goers and golf players to relax in after a round of golf.

"TLBR wants to be consistent as the history of most restaurants on island heavily rely on tourists… when the tourists [numbers] go up they make money and when the arrivals go down, they lose money… This is local family run business. We want to make the restaurant local friendly so people will keep coming as we would like them to see the restaurant as a part of their home," she added said.

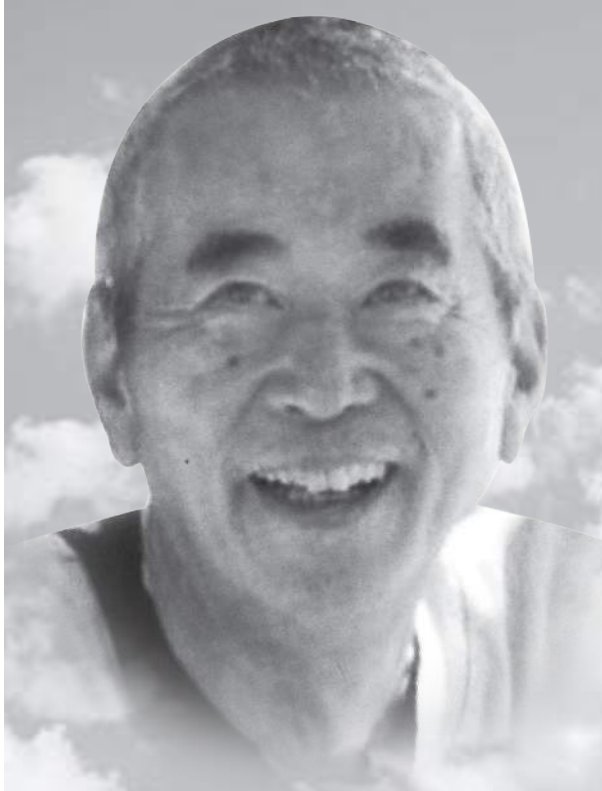
For reservations, contact Carmen B. Sablan-Heat (670) 285-8928 or VIP manager Chuan He at (670) 285-2845.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of our beloved

†Tadao Kumagai aka "Gai San"

Born: July 11, 1944 • Died: January 16, 2019



He now joins his
Wife: †Rosario Dlg. Kumagai
Sons: †Jose Dlg. Kumagai
†Ray Dlg. Kumagai
†Vicente Dlg. Kumagai
Daughter: †Maria Dlg. Kumagai
Father: †Akira Kumagai
Mother: †Fujie Kumagai
Sister: †Sachiko Kumagai

He is survived by his Children/Spouses, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchild
Son: Joseph Ryoichi Dlg. & Alvilynn M. Kumagai (Joseph Jr. Justin, Keanu, Alveah-Jo, Javin, Keoki & Cartrina (Kainoa), Vianna, and Kikowa)
Daughters: Elizabeth Dlg. Kumagai & George P. Magofna
Christine Dlg. Kumagai & Robert C. Mendiola (Dustin, Austin & Robert Jr.)

He is also survived by his Brother & Sisters Spouses and Children
Brother: Toru, Sachiko Kumagai & Children
Sisters: Michiko Terui & Children
Masa & Masayuki Nishizato

And he is also survived by numerous brothers & sisters in-law, nephews and nieces.

The funeral service will be on **January 23, 2019 (Wednesday)** at the Borja Funeral Home in Chalan Kanoa. **Viewing is at 8:00am til 10:00am** before Cremation. **Burial of the Urn will be at 4:00pm** at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Domo Arigato Gozaimasu for your thoughts and prayers,

From the kids and the family

Harvey Weinstein breaks with his criminal defense lawyer

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein is recasting his legal team a month after losing a hard-fought bid to get his sexual assault case thrown out.

Weinstein and high-profile defense attorney Benjamin Brafman said in a statement Thursday that they "have agreed to part ways" and that new lawyers would be introduced next week.

The disgraced movie mogul's trial is tentatively scheduled for May 6.

He is charged with raping an unidentified female acquaintance in 2013 and performing a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006. A conviction could put him in prison for the rest of his life.

Weinstein, 66, denies all allegations of nonconsensual sex.

Thursday's announcement came after days of speculation about Weinstein and Brafman's future together.

"Both parties have agreed to part ways amicably and Mr. Brafman has agreed to cooperate fully with new counsel for Mr. Weinstein so as to ensure an orderly transition," the statement said.

A judge must still approve the move.

Brafman, whose other celebrity clients have included Sean Combs and Jay-Z, has been by Weinstein's side since he was arrested and paraded out of a Manhattan police station last spring.

The 70-year-old Brafman, a tactical and pugnacious litigator, appeared to embrace his role as the "Pulp Fiction" producer's chief attack dog.

After Weinstein turned himself in on May 25, Brafman came out swinging, telling reporters: "Mr. Weinstein did not invent the casting couch in Hollywood" and that "bad behavior is not on trial in this case."

He then scored a victory in the courtroom, getting part of the case dropped in October after evidence surfaced that a police detective had coached a witness.

Last month, however, he failed to convince a judge to dismiss the rest of the charges.

"Mr. Weinstein praised Mr. Brafman for his legal work to date and Mr. Brafman reiterated his belief that Mr. Weinstein would be exonerated of the charges that have been filed against him," their statement said. "Brafman personally wished Mr. Weinstein the best of luck as he defends the case and the accusations that Mr. Weinstein has vehemently denied."

Weinstein has played a leading role in shaping his own defense, commuting from his Connecticut home to work with Brafman at his Manhattan office as a de facto paralegal.

"He's a hands-on client," Brafman told Esquire in a profile rushed online this week. "He's relentless."

The magazine reported that Weinstein was running Brafman's strategy past other lawyers and advisers.

In the days before a Dec. 20 hearing on their failed bid to dismiss the case, Weinstein was peppering Brafman with emails and voicemails and showing up at his office after dark to work on strategy, the magazine reported.

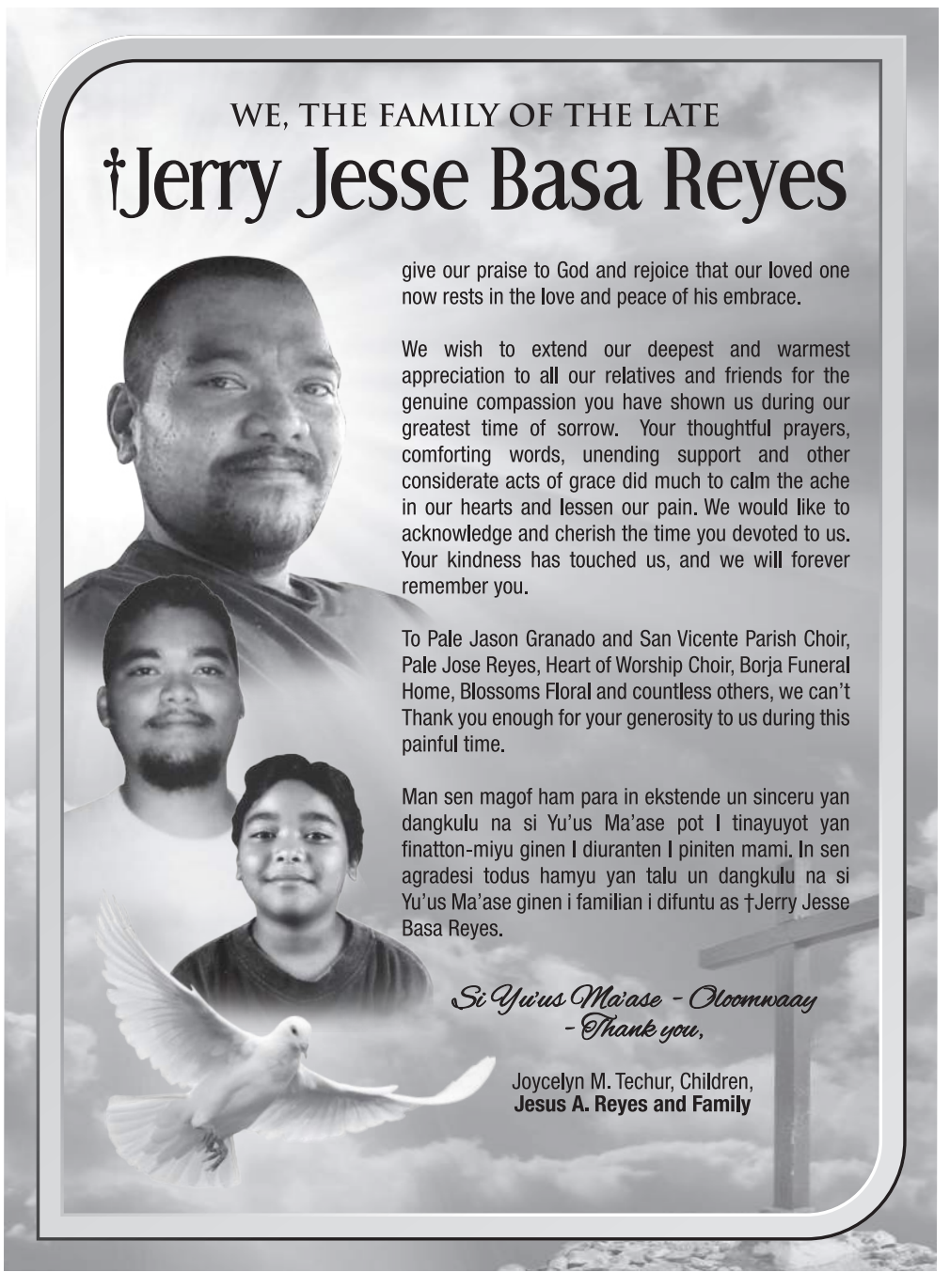
Last week, in a statement responding to a Daily Beast article that he was looking for new lawyers, Weinstein said he was "looking to augment the team, not replace anyone."

"Harvey is the type of guy who gets a second opinion on his tuna salad," Brafman told Esquire.

In 2001, Brafman won an acquittal for hip-hop star Sean Combs after he was accused of toting an illegal handgun into a crowded Manhattan nightclub. In 2011, the lawyer helped former International Monetary Fund director Dominique Strauss-Kahn beat an attempted rape charge. The District Attorney's office ultimately dropped the charges, saying there were inconsistencies in the accuser's story.

AP

In this March 7, 2012 file photo, U.S film producer and movie studio chairman Harvey Weinstein during an interview with the Associated Press in Paris, the same day as Weinstein received, Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by French President Nicolas Sarkozy.


WE, THE FAMILY OF THE LATE
†Jerry Jesse Basa Reyes
give our praise to God and rejoice that our loved one now rests in the love and peace of his embrace.
We wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you have shown us during our greatest time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comforting words, unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and lessen our pain. We would like to acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us. Your kindness has touched us, and we will forever remember you.
To Pale Jason Granado and San Vicente Parish Choir, Pale Jose Reyes, Heart of Worship Choir, Borja Funeral Home, Blossoms Floral and countless others, we can't Thank you enough for your generosity to us during this painful time.
Man sen magof ham para in ekstende un sinceru yan dangkulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase pot I tinayuyot yan finatton-miyu ginen I diuranten I piniten mami. In sen agradesi todus hamyu yan talu un dangkulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen i familian i difuntu as †Jerry Jesse Basa Reyes.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Otoomwaay - Thank you,
Joycelyn M. Techur, Children,
Jesus A. Reyes and Family

Sociologist and intellectual, Nathan Glazer, dead at 95

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Sociologist Nathan Glazer, who assisted on a classic study of conformity, "The Lonely Crowd," and co-authored a groundbreaking document of non-conformity, "Beyond the Melting Pot," has died. He was 95.

Glazer's daughter, Sarah Glazer, confirmed her father died at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Saturday morning.

A longtime professor at Harvard University, Glazer, was among the last of the deeply-read thinkers who influenced culture and politics in the mid-20th century. Starting in the 1940s, Glazer was a writer and editor for Commentary and The New Republic. He was a co-editor of The Public Interest, and wrote or co-wrote numerous books. With peers such as Daniel Bell and Irving Howe, he had a wide range of interests, "a notion of universal competence," from foreign policy to Modernist architecture, subject of one his latter books, "From a Cause to a Style."

A radical in his youth, he was regarded as a founding "neo-conservative," a label he resisted. His most famous projects were the million-selling "The Lonely Crowd," primarily written by David Riesman and a prescient 1950 release about consumerism and peer pressure, and the landmark "Beyond the Melting Pot," which countered the core American myth of assimilation.

Glazer and Daniel Patrick Moynihan examined five racial and ethnic groups in New York City—blacks, Italian-Americans, Jews, Puerto Ricans and Irish-Americans—and concluded that even as languages and customs from the old world faded, new styles and traditions emerged that reflected distinct identities. "It was reasonable to believe that a new American type would emerge, a new nationality in which it would be a matter of indifference whether a man was of Anglo-Saxon or German or Italian or Jewish origin," the authors wrote. "The initial notion of an American melting pot did not, it seems, quite grasp what would happen in America."

The book was published in 1963 to immediate and continuing debate over its refutation of a blended society, over the authors' belief that blacks' struggles could not be blamed on discrimination alone and that blacks would eventually achieve the kinds of advances enjoyed by immigrant populations. "Melting Pot" has been widely taught, and remains a standard reference for urban and ethnic studies, whether the subject has been civil rights, education or city politics. Glazer, a chronic re-assessor, questioned his assumptions in a 1970 reissue of the book and after. He had hoped for a post-ethnic, post-racial country, but in a 1997 release, "We Are All Multiculturalists Now," Glazer resigned himself to multiculturalism, infuriating conservatives but bringing praise from others.

"Glazer is a gentleman, always ready to concede, at least rhetorically, the sincerity of his opponent's feelings," James Traub wrote in a review published in Slate.

Glazer was the last survivor of those featured in "Arguing the World," a 1998 documentary about four former students at the City College of New York: Glazer, Howe, Bell and Irving Kristol. His many jobs included working in the editorial divisions of Random House and Anchor Books in the 1950s, serving during the Kennedy administration in what is now the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and teaching education and social structure at Harvard.

AP

Director Jonathan Glazer poses for a photograph on the red carpet at the gala for the new movie " Under The Skin " during the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto on Monday, Sept. 9, 2013.

Timberlake pops in on patients at Texas children's hospital

DALLAS (AP)—Justin Timberlake has pulled some sunshine from his pocket for the patients at a Texas children's hospital.

Timberlake took a break from his "Man of the Woods" tour to pop in and pose for pictures with the young patients at HCA Healthcare's Methodist Children's Hospital in San Antonio.

AP

This photo provided by HCA Healthcare's Methodist Children's Hospital shows Justin Timberlake visiting patients at the San Antonio, Texas hospital Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

A video of the kids was widely shared all week, with many in their hospital beds as they danced to Timberlake's hit "Can't Stop The Feeling" with its refrain of "got some sunshine in my pocket." The kids held up signs that read "JT See me!" and on Friday afternoon JT obliged.

One girl in a picture with Timberlake held up a sign that read "JT saw me!"

The 37-year-old pop star recently resumed his tour after canceling several dates because of bruised vocal chords.

Wendy Williams to take health-related break from TV show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Wendy Williams is taking an extended break from her TV talk show to deal with health issues related to her immune system disorder, her family said Friday.

The family wrote in a statement that Williams has suffered complications from Graves' disease in the past few days.

Treatment is necessary and will include "significant time" in the hospital, according to the family statement provided by show producer and distributor Debmar-Mercury.

Williams has a strong desire to return to work but must focus on her "personal and physical well-being," the family said, adding a request that her privacy be respected.

Williams, 54, is married to Kevin Hunter.

She is on the mend from another health problem, a shoulder fracture she suffered in December, the statement said.

The host revealed the Graves' disease diagnosis on her show last February, when she announced a three-week hiatus.

Graves' disease leads to the overproduction of thyroid hormones and can cause wide-ranging symptoms and affect overall health.

In October 2017, Williams fainted on stage during her show, saying later she became overheated while wearing a bulky Halloween costume.

Debmar-Mercury said that it "wholeheartedly" supports Williams' decision to take the time she needs. She will be welcomed back when she is ready, the company said.

Repeats of "The Wendy Williams Show" will air during the week of Jan. 21, to be followed by original episodes with guest hosts.

Britain's Prince Philip, 97, recovers after Land Rover crash

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II's 97-year-old husband Prince Philip was recovering at the royal Sandringham estate after the Land Rover he was driving rolled over on its side in a collision with another vehicle.

An alarming photo showing Philip's toppled black Land Rover dominated the front pages Friday of Britain's tabloids. The Daily Mirror's headline read: "Philip, 97, cheats death in crash."

Buckingham Palace said Philip received a "precautionary checkup" at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn on Friday and was found to have "no injuries of concern."

Witness Roy Warne told the BBC he was driving home from work Thursday when the accident involving Philip's Land Rover and a compact car unfolded in front of him shortly before 3 p.m.

"I saw a car, a black Rover, come out from a side road and it rolled and ended up on the other side of the road," Warne said. "I saw it careering, tumbling across the road and ending up on the other side."

AP

News media film broken glass and car parts on the road side near to the Sandringham Estate, England, where Prince Philip was involved in a road accident Thursday while he was driving, Friday Jan. 18, 2019.

Warne said he helped free a baby from the second car, a Kia, before helping the prince out of his vehicle, which was lying on its side.

Warne found Philip trapped in the car, but persuaded him to move one leg at a time to get out. He then pulled him out, saying he was not sure whether it was through the windshield or the sun roof. The prince was able to immediately stand up and walk around.

"He was obviously shaken, and then he went and asked if everyone else was all right," Warne said.

The driver of the Kia, a 28-year-old woman, suffered cuts to her knee while her passenger, a 45-year-old woman, suffered a broken wrist. Both were taken to the hospital and sent home. The 9-month-old baby in the Kia was not injured.

Reports: Sony drops R. Kelly after furor over allegations

NEW YORK (AP)—Multiple outlets have reported that Sony Music has dropped embattled R&B star R. Kelly from its roster.

The announcement comes two weeks after the popular documentary series "Surviving R. Kelly" drew fresh attention to the sex abuse allegations against R. Kelly, which have dogged him most of his career. The #MeToo and #MuteR-Kelly movements have held protests, demanding his music be dropped from streaming services and beyond.

Representatives for Sony and RCA Records, where R. Kelly was signed to, didn't immediately return emails seeking comment.

Lady Gaga and Celine Dion recently removed their duets with R. Kelly from streaming services and French rock band Phoenix apologized for collaborating with the singer in 2013.

R. Kelly has denied all allegations of sexual misconduct involving women and underage girls.

His first album on Sony, 1992's "Born into the 90's," was with the group Public Announcement. His massively successful solo debut, "12 Play," was released a year later.

Son is still mired in gried long after father's death

DEAR ABBY: It has been a little over two years since I lost my father to leukemia. The progression of his illness and death was rapid and unforeseen. It has been a tremendous emotional strain on the family, but I seem to be having a hard time "ending" my grieving and finding even simple happiness in things I used to enjoy. I know the death of a loved one can change a person's perspective forever, but I'm wondering if my process has turned into something else.

I am somewhat prone to depression (especially around the winter months), but have stuck with my doctor's orders about medication and exercise on a regular basis. I was in counseling, but that seemed to reach its conclusion about a year ago.

I'm married with three wonderful children, and I feel like I could be a better husband and father if I could figure out how to move on. Abby, please help.

TRYING TO MOVE ON

DEAR TRYING TO MOVE ON: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your father. The inability to find happiness in things that used to bring you joy is one of the symptoms of clinical depression. After two years, you should be doing better than you are. For that reason I'm suggesting you discuss what's going on with you with a psychiatrist, a doctor who has the training and certification to give you a definite diagnosis and medicate you, if necessary. Please don't wait to ask your doctor or your insurance company for a referral.

DEAR ABBY: My brother lives in a different state, and every year he comes "home" for a week. I'm one of six siblings who live in the area, but "Jim" always stays with us. After the first time he stayed here he said, "I'll just keep your key for next year."

I love my brother, but this means giving him my bedroom for a week or more. We have no other bedrooms, so I have to share with my husband and get no sleep. I'm in my 70s, and after a week with no sleep I feel awful.

I have hinted to Jim about him staying with his son, but he says "no." The other siblings don't offer because he is so critical. Everything we do has to be his way.

I really need to tell him he must stay elsewhere, but I can't seem to find the right words. My siblings say just tell him. What should I do?

NEEDS MY SLEEP

DEAR NEEDS SLEEP: Just tell him! Permit me to suggest a few phrases: "Jim, you will have to make other arrangements when you come to town because you can no longer stay with us. Going without sleep for a week while you use my bed is affecting my health, so please return our house key. We love you and would like to visit with you while you're here, and we hope you understand."

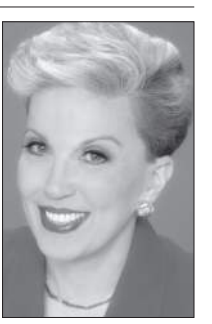
Do not feel guilty for saying any of it because you have been more than generous to your brother.

DEAR READERS: Today, we remember the birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who in 1968 was martyred in the cause of civil rights. His philosophy still rings true: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

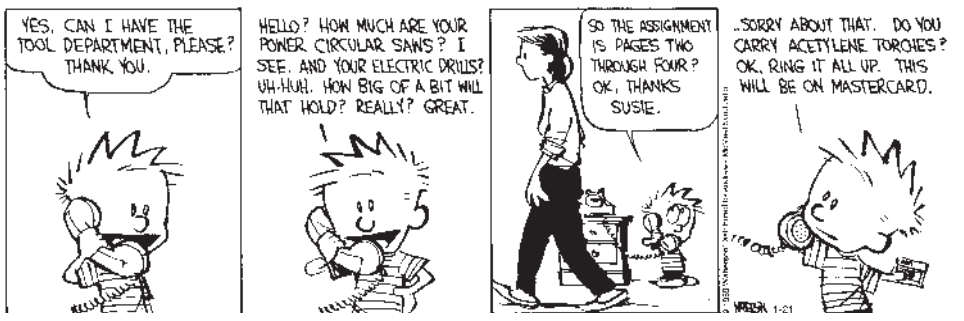


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YES. CAN I HAVE THE TOOL DEPARTMENT, PLEASE? THANK YOU.
HELLO? HOW MUCH ARE YOUR POWER CIRCULAR SAWS? I SEE. AND YOUR ELECTRIC DRILLS? UH-HUH. HOW BIG OF A BIT WILL THAT HOLD? REALLY? GREAT.
SO THE ASSIGNMENT IS PAGES TWO THROUGH FOUR? OK. THANKS SUSIE.
..SORRY ABOUT THAT. DO YOU CARRY ACETYLENE TORCHES? OK. RING IT ALL UP. THIS WILL BE ON MASTERCARD.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

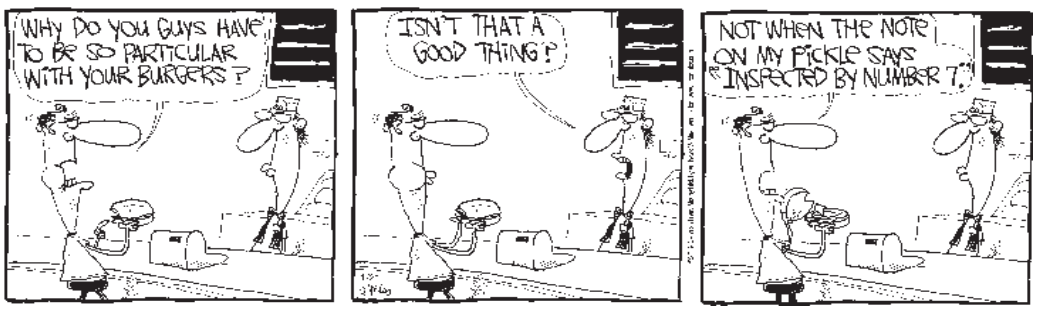
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, I'M TEACHING A YOGA CLASS AT THREE IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.
YOU...WHAT?
SINCE WHEN DO YOU KNOW YOGA?
I WATCHED A VIDEO. I'M LIKE A PRO NOW.
DO I GET TO WEAR SPANDEX?
NO.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHY DO YOU GUYS HAVE TO BE SO PARTICULAR WITH YOUR BURGERS?
ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?
NOT WHEN THE NOTE ON MY PICKLE SAYS "INSPECTED BY NUMBER 7."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

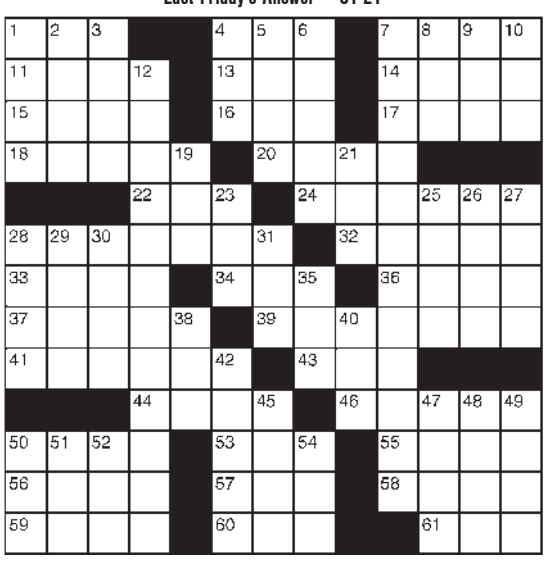
ACROSS
1 Put two and two together?
4 Recede
7 Crib cry
11 Weaving frame
13 Standard
14 Author Hunter
15 Falco of "The Sopranos"
16 "The Greatest"
17 Donate
18 Line dance
20 Wife of Jacob
22 Moreover
24 Like bell-bottoms
28 Fragrant flower
32 Ouzo flavor
33 Sparkling Italian wine
34 Nile biter
36 Complain
37 Daily trio
39 Flying horse
41 Soup grain
43 — of 1812
44 Victor's cry
46 Small boat
50 TV clown
53 Tool set
55 Traditional tales
56 Ms. Brockovich
57 Scratch (out)
58 Listending abbr.
59 Lights-out tune
60 Gender
61 Hill dweller

DOWN
1 Mr. Guinness
2 Nitwit
3 Slay
4 Ecol. watchdog
5 Event for Cinderella
6 Fleeting
7 The Duchess of Sussex who once starred in "Suits"
8 Bird (Pref.)
9 Dallas hoopster, briefly
10 Chemical suffix
12 Multistate lottery with a huge jackpot
19 Blackbird
21 In the style of
23 "CSI" evidence
25 Ocho —, Jamaica
26 Isaac's eldest
27 Cozy rooms
28 Doorframe piece
29 Cruising
30 Flag feature
31 Mentalist's gift
35 Church seat
38 Stitch
40 Helium, for one
42 Oxen harnesses
45 Goddess of victory
47 Tiny bit
48 Drescher or Tarkenton
49 Fedora fabric
50 Wager
51 Manmouse link
52 Energy
54 — -Mex cuisine

Solution time: 26 mins.

N	A	A	C	P		B	I	T		T	A	O		
O	M	A	H	A		R	C	O		R	U	M		
T	I	M	E	R		E	B	W	H	I	T	E		
		I	R	I	S	E	S		E	B	O	N		
G	A	L		S	A	C		D	R	E	S	S		
A	R	N	E		S	H	R	U	B					
S	M	E	L	T	S		E	D	I	C	T	S		
			A	B	Y	S	S		E	S	S	O		
M	A	R	I	A		H	I	D		A	B			
A	N	O	N		C	A	N	A	P	E				
H	G	W	E	L	L	S		M	O	W	E	D		
A	S	E		O	A	T		O	P	I	N	E		
L	I	R		O	N	A		N	E	S	I	S		

Last Friday's Answer 01-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Booboo Stewart, 25; Ashton Eaton, 31; Emma Bunton, 43; Geena Davis, 63.

Happy Birthday: Pay more attention to important relationships, your health and how you present who you are and what you can do. Turn this year into one of personal growth, enlightenment and striving to reach higher standards and professional goals. Leave the past behind you, and focus on the moment and what life has to offer. Change begins within. Your numbers are 1, 5, 18, 26, 34, 42, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Learn from mistakes, and consider the best way to improve what you have to offer. An act of kindness will make you feel good as well as make a difference to someone struggling. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Refuse to let emotions get in the way of your responsibilities. A problem can be fixed if you are open about what you want to see happen. Be the one to make a difference, not the one to cause concern. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* If you want change, make it happen. Refuse to let someone bully you or lead you astray. Make your home a safe place where you can chill and enjoy time spent with family and friends. Focus on relationships and personal improvements. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Step outside your comfort zone and see what life has to offer. Look at possible partnerships and how you can work alongside someone who will contribute as much as you do. Avoid a risky venture or making an impulsive purchase. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A playful, energetic attitude will lead to success. Network and socialize with people who are as enthusiastic as you are, and good things will transpire. Personal improvements will boost your morale and make you irresistible. Love is in the air. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't mince words when dealing with youngsters or seniors trying to take advantage of you. Set a standard that will ensure everyone stays in line and takes care of his or her responsibilities. It's time to take charge and be responsible. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You may want change, but some of the people your choices will affect may not. Get the go-ahead before you make a move that may cause havoc. Concentrate on personal growth and improvements, not trying to change others. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look at all sides of a situation and you'll come up with a plan that will encourage others to pitch in and help. Don't let someone from your past cause problems that will upset your current friendships or a love relationship. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll attract plenty of attention. Put your energy into something constructive. Fixing up your personal space to suit some of the projects you want to pursue will help push you in the right direction. Physical improvement is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll face opposition if you are too vocal about what you plan to do. Focus on perfecting your plans before you decide to share. Someone will take advantage of you or steal your idea if you are too transparent. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put your best foot forward. Partnerships, professional gains and personal change are within reach. Enthusiasm and following through with your promises will lead to greater opportunities and the chance to earn your living doing something you enjoy. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Channel your energy wisely. You can get into an argument or you can make good use of your time. Helping others can be good for the soul and offer insight into a situation you have been avoiding. Observation will be enlightening. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, open-minded and fair. You are sensitive and compassionate.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8	1		7	
1		2		3			
		3		2		5	9
5	7		9		6		
9		1				8		7
			8		7		4	5
	2	4		3		7		
			4			3		9
	9		2	6				

Difficulty Level ★ 1/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	2	3	7	6	5	1	9	8
9	7	8	3	4	1	5	2	6
1	6	5	2	9	8	7	4	3
7	1	9	5	8	2	6	3	4
6	5	2	4	3	9	8	7	1
8	3	4	6	1	7	2	5	9
2	8	1	9	7	3	4	6	5
3	4	7	1	5	6	9	8	2
5	9	6	8	2	4	3	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 39

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MARIAH CAREY'S BEAUTIFUL VOICE Solution: 15 letters

C	I	S	U	M	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	C
S	L	M	I	E	I	C	A	U	T	I	O	N	H	H
F	L	A	E	N	M	M	O	F	T	G	N	A	O	A
I	B	E	W	L	G	O	I	N	O	N	R	G	W	N
V	E	R	I	T	I	E	T	Y	C	M	O	L	S	T
E	T	D	N	N	G	S	R	I	B	E	E	I	S	E
O	H	Y	D	A	B	A	M	R	O	A	R	T	L	U
C	E	A	I	W	C	I	A	A	S	N	B	T	R	S
T	R	D	L	A	S	C	O	Ⓣ	T	G	S	E	I	E
A	E	O	N	L	E	I	O	R	Ⓞ	I	N	R	G	N
V	V	N	A	L	S	R	D	R	H	Ⓤ	C	O	E	D
E	O	C	E	E	S	T	U	W	O	O	Ⓡ	O	S	L
N	O	T	T	S	T	A	R	S	P	M	M	R	I	E
V	N	O	I	T	A	P	I	C	N	A	M	E	W	S
A	N	G	E	L	S	C	R	Y	R	E	M	H	E	S

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Angels Cry, Baby, Cannon, Caution, Chanteuse, Charmbracelet, Christmas, Concert, Daydreams, Emancipation, Emotions, Endless, Five Octave, Glitter, GTFO, Hero, Home, I'll Be There, Love, Melismatic, Mimi, Monroe, Moroccan, Music, Notes, Patricia, Scott, Shows, Singer, Songs, Stars, Tour, Vocals, Want, Whistle, Wind, Wisegirls

Last Friday's Answer: Chopsticks

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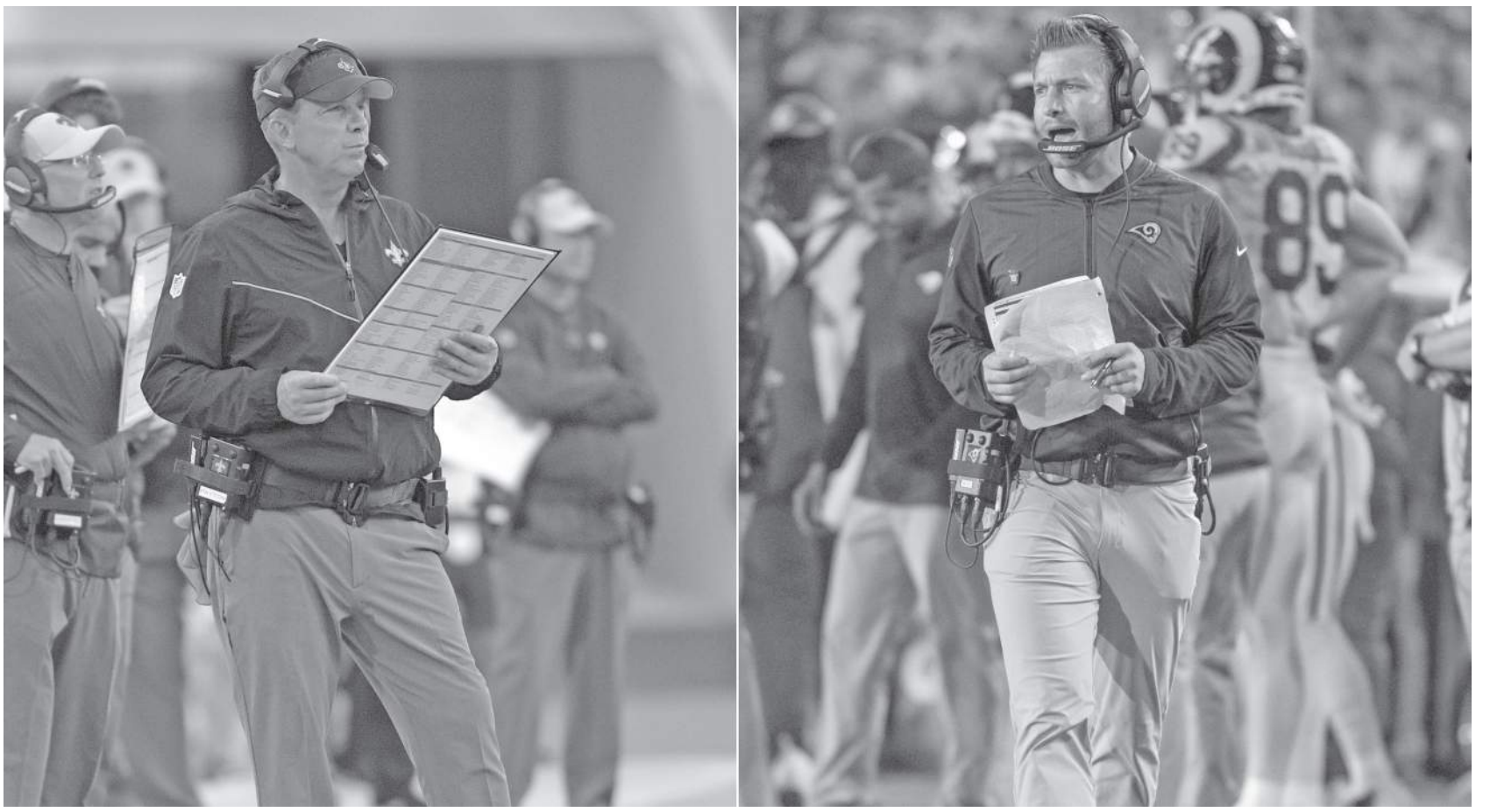


AP

At left, in an Aug. 9, 2018, file photo, New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton watches from the sideline during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, in Jacksonville, Fla. At right, in a Nov. 19, 2018, file photo, Los Angeles Rams head coach Sean McVay watches on the sideline during an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, in Los Angeles.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—One way or another, the NFC Championship between the Los Angeles Rams and New Orleans Saints will be won by a coach named Sean — with an Irish surname—who designs and calls plays for one of the most innovative and productive offenses in the NFL.

The ties between the Saints' Sean Payton and the Rams' Sean McVay go well beyond a shared name.

"We both cut our teeth in this league under Jon Gruden," Payton said. "That (Rams) staff—there's a ton of guys that we're friendly with and that we know on that staff. Guys who we have worked with, and Sean and I have a real good relationship. He is an engaging guy, a fun guy to be around."

Gruden, the current Oakland Raiders coach, was the offensive coordinator with the Eagles in 1997 when Payton was hired as quarterbacks. In 2008, Gruden was the head coach in Tampa Bay when he hired McVay as a receivers coach

During the past two seasons Payton and McVay have led their teams to the playoffs with one of the best offenses in football, thanks in part to elite quarterbacks — Drew Brees with New Orleans (14-3) and Jared Goff of Los Angeles (14-3).

Both coaches have acknowledged they watch each other's offensive film nearly every week—not just because of the possibility of playing against one another; they're looking for good ideas.

And then there are some connections on the roster and coaching staff. One of the Rams' top receivers, Brandin Cooks, was Payton's first-round draft choice in 2014. Los Angeles' running game coordinator is Aaron Kromer, a former running backs and offensive line coach under Payton, including on the 2009 Super Bowl-winning squad.

Players on both teams praise their coach's intangible feel for how a game is developing.

Saints Pro Bowl left tackle Terron Armstead extoled Payton's "fearlessness" in his play calling and said the coach has "so much believe and confidence in us and the system that we can go out and make a play no matter the down and distance."

Goff mentioned how McVay sends in plays "with confidence and having a good feel for everything."

"There's certain moments in games where being a good play caller—you can't teach it—but there's certain moments where you have to go for that dagger or you have to pull back a little bit," Goff continued. "There's just different ebbs and flows in games. I think he's got a great feel for that."

The main thing that separates the two is age and experience. The 55-year-old Payton got his first head coaching job 13 years ago, is coaching in his third NFC title game and trying win his second Super Bowl. In his second season as a head coach, McVay, 32, is preparing for his first NFC title game.

The same goes for their QBs: the record-setting Brees turned 40 on Tuesday and Goff is 24.

"He's been doing it at really high level for a lot longer than I have," McVay said of Payton. "He's an outstanding coach—clearly referenced by the way that his team is playing this year, how they've played over the course of his career when he's been leading the Saints. So, I don't think we're in that category yet. We've got to do things for a lot longer to be able to be mentioned in that same breath."

Getting to a Super Bowl by winning Sunday would be a good start for McVay and the Rams, whose first loss this season came when they last visited the Superdome on Nov. 4 and fell 45-35

Eagles give Foles $1M bonus before he leaves

With his future in Philadelphia uncertain, Eagles quarterback Nick Foles received a $1 million bonus despite falling short on contract requirements, according to an ESPN report.

In order to earn the $1 million bonus, Foles needed to play in 33% of the team's snaps this season and Philadelphia made the playoffs. The backup signal caller fell just short of that goal, as his 357 snaps in 2018 accounted for 32.69% of the team's total—just four snaps shy of hitting the threshold.

Foles spearheaded Philadelphia's run to a playoff berth to close out the regular season and helped the Eagles beat the Bears in the wild-card round before losing to the Saints in the divisional round.

Eagles quarterback Nick Foles following the NFC divisional playoff football game between the New Orleans Saints and the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019 in New Orleans.

Foles threw for 1,413 yards and nine touchdowns in the Eagles' final four games and went 4-1 in five regular season starts—two of those coming in September and the last three in December.

Eagles coach Doug Pederson said the team expects to stick with Carson Wentz, who was out with an injury as Foles excelled late in the season, as their starting quarterback. If Wentz returns as the starter, it's expected that the Eagles would decline the option in Foles' deal for 2019.

The Eagles backup restructured his contract after winning Super Bowl LII last season to include a $2 million signing bonus and performance-based incentives.

Meanwhile, the Jacksonville Jaguars have re-signed safety Jarrod Wilson to a three-year contract.

Wilson was set to become a restricted free agent on March 13.

Wilson started the final two games this season, filling in for injured starter Ronnie Harrison. Harrison, a rookie and a third-round draft pick from Alabama, stepped into a starting role in place of waived veteran Barry Church.

Wilson, who signed with Jacksonville as an undrafted free agent in 2016, has appeared in 47 games with two starts during his three-year career.

Chiefs' bandwagon rolling into Arrowhead for mighty Patriots

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—It seems football fans everywhere are suddenly on the Chiefs' bandwagon, enthralled by Kansas City's record-setting young quarterback and exciting playmakers and hopeful the amiable coach can finally win the big one.

Then again, maybe they're just fans of anybody facing New England.

The Patriots have dominated the AFC for nearly two decades, and the coach-quarterback combination of Bill Belichick and Tom Brady will be playing in an eighth consecutive conference title game Sunday night when New England visits the Chiefs at frigid, hostile Arrowhead Stadium.

But whereas Brady& Co. once instilled awe in their opponents, the Chiefs view their showdown as an opportunity for Patrick Mahomes to take the baton as the league's best quarterback and for Kansas City, seeking its first Super Bowl appearance in 49 years , to surpass the Patriots as the NFL's "it" team.

"It'll be huge," Mahomes said. "When I got here, the goal was to win the AFC championship and get to the Super Bowl, and win that. To do that early in my career, it would be a huge thing."

There aren't two more dichotomous teams than the Patriots and Chiefs.

New England has won five Super Bowls during the Belichick-Brady era, setting all kinds of records along the way. The cruel efficiency with which they've sliced up the AFC has made them the bane of fans everywhere but New England and given them the kind of unbeatable aura that accompanied the New York Yankees teams of Derek Jeter and the Chicago Bulls teams of Michael Jordan.

It's not just petty jealousy, though. Many fans have been turned off by Deflategate, Spygate and other instances over the years that have saddled the Patriots with a rather unsavory reputation.

Brady has mostly shrugged it off. So has Belichick, who almost seems to embrace the villain role.

"I don't think about it too much, what people might say or think," said Brady, whose team is a rare playoff underdog Sunday. "I know we're playing against a very good football team. They're the first seed for a reason. They've had a great season and we're going to have to go into a really tough environment and play our best football, and it's a great opportunity for us."

On the flip side are the Chiefs, a team that dominated the AFC throughout the 1990s but reached only one conference title game. They were the league's worst franchise six years ago, when Andy Reid came aboard , but have become a perennial playoff team that was always missing that certain something.

They found it when they drafted Mahomes nearly two years ago .

The quarterback shattered just about every franchise passing record in his first season as a starter, and his down-home style has made him a fan favorite. Kids dressed up like him for Halloween, his curly Mohawk has become the trend at local barbershops, and the aw-shucks way Mahomes has embraced his stunning success has only made him more endearing.

"I think he's a great player on a great team that's very well-coached," Belichick said. "They have a great scheme and a great system. He's got a ton of weapons, so he'll be tough to handle, as will their entire offense, as will their entire team. We'll need our best game."

George's 4-point play lifts Thunder past 76ers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Russell Westbrook and Joel Embiid tangled once again.

Then Paul George stole the show.

George converted a four-point play with 5.1 seconds left, sending Westbrook and the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 117-115 victory over Embiid and the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday.

George's clutch shot capped a wild finish that included another memorable moment in the rivalry between Westbrook and Embiid. Westbrook absorbed a hard foul from Embiid on a break with 1:46 left, landing out of bounds under the basket.

Westbrook then got up and rushed toward Embiid before he was restrained by his teammates.

"I don't think he just landed on me," Westbrook said. "He had a little extra to it, you know what I'm saying? But it's ok."

Embiid had a different opinion of the play.

"I think I was going for the block and I think he lost the ball, but I was already in the air," Embiid said. "I don't know what, why he was mad. I have no idea. But he's always in his feelings, so I have no idea."

Westbrook and Embiid have had a couple chilly exchanges over the past couple years. Asked if he was "cool" with Embiid, Westbrook used an expletive before saying "No."

Westbrook fouled out with 14.9 seconds remaining after he got Embiid while shooting a 3-pointer. Embiid made all three foul shots, tying it at 113, and Jimmy Butler's driving layup put Philadelphia in front with 6.9 seconds to go.

But George drained a 3 while being fouled by Butler and made the foul shot.

"That's PG," Westbrook said. "You don't get too excited anymore about those I mean they happen so many times. PG's doing what PG does and we just got to see it and get a win."

Philadelphia had one last chance, but Butler missed a 3-point attempt in the final seconds.

The 76ers have lost 19 in a row to the Thunder. That streak that was on Embiid's mind when he decided to play after he was a game-time decision because of back tightness.

"The Sixers haven't won against them in like 10, 11 years," Embiid said. "That's just ridiculous.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder's Paul George, right, celebrates with Russell Westbrook at the end of the team's NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, in Philadelphia. The Thunder won, 117-115.

LeBron, Giannis likely captains for televised NBA All-Star draft

The NBA will officially cap its Feb. 7 trade deadline day with a televised All-Star draft.

The NBA switched last year from the traditional Eastern vs Western conferences format to naming a pair of captains who then select teams from the pool of starters and reserves. The leading vote-getter from each conference is named a captain, and they can select anyone from either side of the league. The NBA drew some criticism when last year's draft was conducted on a private conference call. Even captains LeBron James and Stephen Curry later agreed that the draft should have been televised.

Plans to correct that misstep have been in motion for months, and the NBA made them official on Thursday, announcing that TNT will host the "NBA All-Star Draft Show" on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. EST.

James and Giannis Antetokounmpo lead fan voting in the West and East, respectively, making them heavy favorites to be the captains for this year's game in Charlotte on Feb 17. Fan voting concludes on Monday, when media and player votes are also due. Starters will be announced on Jan. 24, and the reserves—selected by the league's coaches—]will be named a week later. Captains must first pick from the pool of starters before picking through the reserves, all regardless of conference.

There was some concern from players that the draft order might hurt somebody's feelings. Carmelo Anthony was most vocal about the potential downside of televising the draft, and the players' association reportedly backed him on it. Russell Westbrook actually did get mad when he thought he was picked last in the 2018 draft, but then it turned out to be LaMarcus Aldridge, and nobody minded.

"We're all All-Stars, so, at the end of the day, we should be thankful to be here," Aldridge told Chris Haynes in February 2018. "Picked first, picked last, it doesn't matter. We're all competitive, too. It won't be the easiest thing to be picked last, but at the end of the day, you're just happy to be here."

In coordination with the televised draft announcement, the NBA also released the third round of fan voting returns, which account for 50 percent of All-Star votes, with the media and players splitting the other half. Two guards and three frontcourt players from each conference will make up the 10 starters.

Pacers 111, Mavericks 99

In Indianapolis, Indiana Pacers coach Nate McMIllan threw everything he could at rookie Luka Doncic.

McMillan asked defensive whiz Victor Oladipo to challenge Doncic's shots, outmuscle him on the perimeter and stay in front when Doncic drove. When the calls didn't go his way and the shots didn't fall, Doncic got frustrated and then ejected.

He finished with his lowest point total in more than a month, and the Pacers pulled away from the Dallas Mavericks.

"We made him uncomfortable," Pacers center Myles Turner said. "It was a team effort. We were just trying to get more physical with him."

It worked out quite well.

While Tyreke Evans scored 19 points and Domantas Sabonis added 16 points and 11 rebounds, Indiana won for the third time in four games because it stymied one of the league's bright young stars with a stellar defensive effort.

Doncic finished with eight points on 3-of-14 shooting. He was 0 for 5 on 3-pointers and 2 of 4 on free throws.

Rockets 138, Lakers134, OT

In Houston, James Harden scored 48 points, Eric Gordon added 30 and the Houston Rockets overcame a 21-point deficit to beat the Los Angeles Lakers in overtime.

The Rockets trailed for most of the night and were down by 18 in the second-half. Gordon sent it to overtime with a 3-pointer, and made four free throws in the last seconds of the extra period.

Coming off 57- and 58-point games, Harden had his 19th straight game with at least 30 and he's had 40 in 10 of 13. He was 14 of 30 from the field, going 8 of 19 3-pointers, and hit 12 of 15 free throws.

Kuzma had 32 points for Los Angeles and Brandon Ingram added 21 in a game where coach Luke Walton was ejected in the third quarter. Already without LeBron James and Rajon Rondo, the Lakers have another injury concern after Lonzo Ball sprained his left ankle in the third quarter. The team said he was taken to a hospital for X-rays because the machine at the arena was broken.

James was out for the 13th straight game with a strained left groin and did not make the trip.

Raptors 119, Grizzlies 90

In Toronto, Danny Green had a season-high 24 points and set a franchise record for 3-pointers in a quarter with seven in the third to help Toronto beat Memphis.

Green had 21 points in the third, one shy of Kyle Lowry's franchise record for a quarter. He matched a career high with eight 3s for the game. He also made eight 3-pointers against Minnesota in 2013.

The Raptors extended their home winning streak to nine. Toronto is 20-4 at home.

Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard missed his second straight game for rest.

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 16 points for Memphis. The Grizzlies lost for the 11th time in 12 games.

Bucks 118, Magic 108

In Orlando, Eric Bledsoe made it easy for the Milwaukee Bucks and superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Bledsoe scored 30 points, Antetokounmpo had 25 points and 13 rebounds and the Bucks won their fourth straight game, beating the Orlando Magic.

"It's great to have a lot of options and be able to go in different directions," Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said. "Eric was just great. He made some 3s, got to the basket, did a lot defensively. He just did a little bit of everything."

Malcolm Brogdon added 18 points, and Khris Middleton had 15.

Celtics 113, Hawks 105

In Atlanta, Kyrie Irving scored 32 points and Boston rallied to beat Atlanta for its third straight victory.

Boston took the lead with a 9-0 fourth-quarter run, including a go-ahead 3-pointer by Jaylen Brown, who had 14 points. A drive by Irving gave Boston the lead for good at 101-100. Al Horford made four free throws and a layup to help the Celtics increase their advantage to 109-100 with 1:11 left.

Kevin Huerter led Atlanta with 18 points, and fellow rookie Trae Young had 16.

Kings 103, Pistons 101

In Detroit, Buddy Hield made an off-balance, fadeaway 3-pointer just before time expired and scored 35 points in Sacramento's victory over Detroit.

Hield fumbled an inbounds pass with 3.4 seconds left, scrambled to regain possession and put up the winning shot from the left wing. Blake Griffin scored 38 points for Detroit.

Hornets 135, Suns 115

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker scored 21 points, Jeremy Lamb hit three-points and had 18 points and Charlotte beat Phoenix for its third straight victory.

Charlotte shot 54.5 percent from the field, made 16 of 34 3-point attempts and matched its season-high points total. Devin Booker had 32 points and 11 assists for the Suns.

Heat 117, Bulls 103

In Chicago, Dwyane Wade had 14 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists in his final game in his hometown, helping the Miami Heat beat the skidding Chicago Bulls.

Wade, who turned 37 on Thursday, plans to retire at the end of his 16th NBA season. He got a warm reception in his return, hearing several loud ovations throughout the night.

Josh Richardson had 26 points for Miami, and Dion Waiters finished with 21.

Serena consoles foe; Sharapova, Kerber ousted

AP
United States' Serena Williams consoles Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska after winning their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—It was all a bit overwhelming for the latest opponent who could do nothing to slow Serena Williams at the Australian Open. So Dayana Yastremska, an 18-year-old from Ukraine, found herself wiping away tears as she walked to the net.

Williams knows what it's like to be the one weeping after a loss. She put her right hand on Yastremska's shoulder and consoled her by saying, "You're so young. You did amazing. Don't cry." Then they embraced, and Williams patted Yastremska on the back.

"I could tell she was quite upset. I kind of liked that. It shows she wasn't just there to play a good match—she was there to win. She wanted to win. That really broke my heart," Williams said. "I think she's a good talent. It's good to see that attitude."

Maybe she will be tested in the fourth round, because no one has come close to making her work too hard so far, including the 6-2, 6-1 victory on Saturday.

Next up, though, is a far more accomplished player, No. 1-ranked Simona Halep, who took control by reeling off six consecutive games in one stretch and advanced by beating Williams' sister, Venus, 6-2, 6-3.

After two tough three-set tussles, Halep had a much easier time of things, making only 12 unforced errors while Venus had 33. Halep played with her left thigh taped, but moved around the court well.

"She played pretty flawless," said Venus, who exits before the fourth round at a fifth consecutive Grand Slam tournament.

Looking ahead, Halep said: "It's going to be a bigger challenge. I am ready to face it."

She's lost eight of her past nine matches against Serena.

Might Venus offer her sibling any tips?

"I don't know if Serena needs my help or not," Venus said. "If she does, I'll be there."

Not only has Serena won every set she played this week—and 20 in a row at Melbourne Park, dating to the start of her 2017 run to the title (she sat out last year's tournament after having a baby)—but Williams has ceded a total of only nine games through three victories.

Unlike any of Serena's foes until now, Halep has won a major title, last year's French Open. She's been to three other Grand Slam finals, including a year ago at the Australian Open.

That resume pales in comparison to Serena's, of course.

Whose doesn't?

She is bidding for an eighth trophy at the Australian Open and record-tying 24th Grand Slam title in all.

As for the prospect of playing the Williams sisters in back-to-back matches, Halep called it "the toughest draw I've ever had."

"I just want to try to play my best tennis," Halep said, "because I have nothing to lose."

Other women's fourth-rounders set up for Monday: Naomi Osaka, the woman who beat Serena in last year's chaotic U.S. Open final, against No. 13 Anastasija Sevastova; 2017 U.S. Open runner-up Madison Keys against No. 6 Elina Svitolina; and two-time major champion Garbine Muguruza against 2016 U.S. Open runner-up Karolina Pliskova, who beat No. 27 seed Camila Giorgi 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 on Saturday night.

Men's matchups Monday with a quarterfinal berth at stake will be: No. 1 Novak Djokovic against No. 15 Daniil Medvedev; No. 4 Alexander Zverev against 2016 Wimbledon finalist Milos Raonic; 2014 U.S. Open finalist Kei Nishikori against No. 23 Pablo Carreno-Busta; and No. 11 Borna Coric against No. 28 Lucas Pouille, who eliminated 19-year-old Australian wild-card entry Alexei Popyrin 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-7 (10), 4-6, 6-3.

Serena complimented Yastremska in the locker room after their match.

"She said, like, 'You're young, you're very good and you will be a good player in the future.' It's nice to hear those words from a legend," said the 57th-ranked Yastremska, who eliminated 2011 U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur in the first round and 23rd-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro in the second.

"If she thinks so," Yastremska added about Williams, "then maybe that's true."

Meanwhile, three-time major champion Angelique Kerber was stunned 6-0, 6-2 by Danielle Collins of the U.S. in just 56 minutes of the fourth round.

Collins had an 0-5 career record in Grand Slam tournaments until this one. But she has now added an upset of No. 2 Kerber to earlier victories over a pair of seeded women, No. 14 Julia Goerges and No. 19 Caroline Garcia.

Collins was the more aggressive player throughout and finished with a resounding 29-6 edge in total winners.

The former University of Virginia player will face 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens or Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova next.

Ash Barty beat Maria Sharapova 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 to reach her first Grand Slam quarterfinal and gave Australian its first woman that deep in its major tournament since 2009.

Barty opened the deciding set by breaking Sharapova's serve, helped by two of Sharapova 10 double-faults in the match. It came minutes after the capacity crowd lustily booed Sharapova when she returned from an extraordinary long toilet break after the second set.

Barty broke 2008 champion Sharapova's serve again to lead 3-0, helped by two unforced errors by the Russian and went up 4-0 while holding serve with four straight points. Sharapova faced more break points in the next game but held serve, ending a winning streak of nine consecutive games by Barty.

Sharapova, who beat defending champion Caroline Wozniacki in the third round, broke Barty's serve in the next game and then closed to 4-3 in a game which included the point of the tournament—a 21-shot rally that included great gets by both players and ended with a wide backhand by Barty

'Old guys' vs youngsters at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — So far the older guys are holding court against the new generation at the Australian Open.

On Saturday, 31-year-old Novak Djokovic beat 19-year-old Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-0.

A day earlier, it was 32-year-old Rafael Nadal defeating 19-year-old Alex de Minaur 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

And on Sunday night, the elder statesman of the group, 37-year-old Roger Federer, faces 20-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas in a fourth-round match at Rod Laver Arena. It will be Federer's 101st appearance on the tournament's main show court—and Tsitsipas' first.

"It's great to see new faces and it's great to see young players challenging the best players in the world," Djokovic said. "I salute that and I respect it a lot."

While Shapovalov and de Minaur professed to having nerves playing two of their idols, and Tsitsipas has said he expects the same against Federer, all three of the youngsters have credentials and a game that earmark them for the sport's future once the Big 3 call it a day.

Tsitsipas won his first title last year and his ranking rose from 209 in 2016, to 91 at the end of 2017, to 15 at the end of last season.

De Minaur won his first ATP title at the Sydney International last week and also saw his year-end rankings improve from 354 to 208 to 31 of late. Shapovalov made the semifinals at three tournaments in 2018, and his year-end rankings have soared from 250 to 51 to 27.

All they need is more experience playing big matches against big players at big venues.

Shapovalov got that Saturday.

"It was a little bit difficult for me in terms of it's not every day I'm playing a match against a top guy like this on a stage like that," Shapovalov said. "Definitely I was a little bit nervous, a little bit tight on everything, just hesitating a little bit."

The jitters went away eventually and he ended up taking a set from Djokovic.

"That's when I kind of loosened up and started playing my tennis, I just started really just enjoying myself," Shapovalov said "I told myself, 'Look, you're already down two sets, so just have fun out there'. That's where I felt like I really started to play my game and really showed what I can do."

"He's definitely a guy that he doesn't give you much. That's why he's No. 1 in the world. I'm definitely mentally a little bit tired right now. Kind of want to take a nap."

Nadal was impressed with de Minaur, despite the Australian only taking seven games off him.

"He has that extra energy that the young guys have," Nadal said.

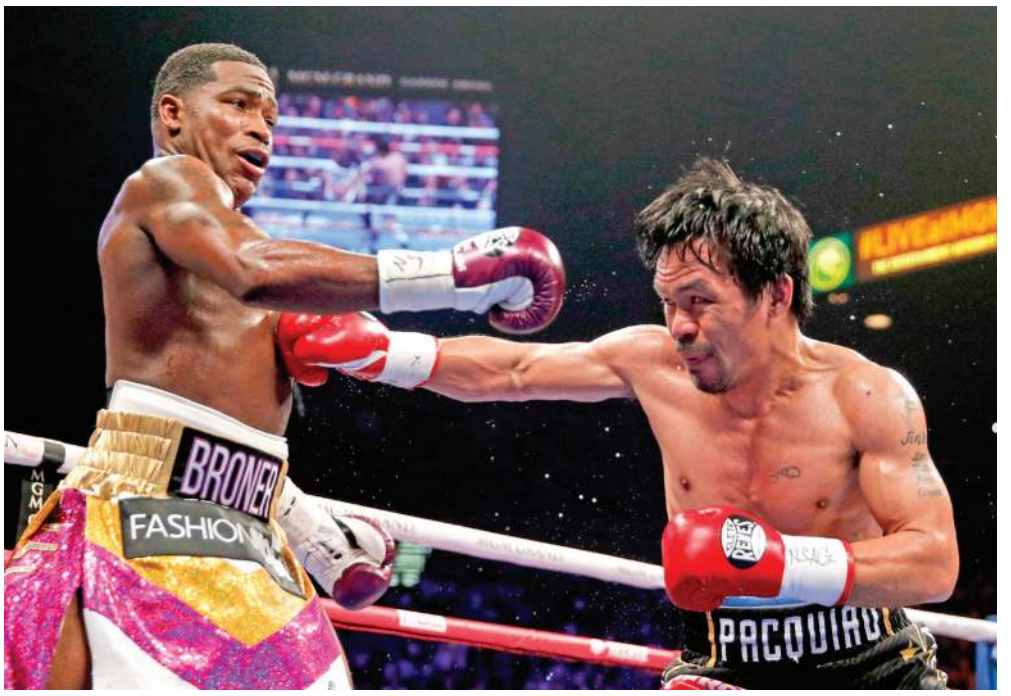
De Minaur said the match was a lesson well-learned.

"This is what you want to do," he said. "Now I've got to go back and get better. I have plenty of areas to work on and improve. Hopefully next time around I can have a bigger crack."

Tsitsipas gets his turn against Federer.

"I'm happy for him," Federer said. "He's playing so well, and I'm looking forward to the matchup with him. I think it's going to be a good one. I like how he mixes up his game and also comes to the net. So I think we will see some athletic attacking tennis being played."

Pacquiao dominates in retaining title against Broner



AP
Manny Pacquiao, right, hits Adrien Broner during their WBA welterweight title boxing match Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, in Las Vegas.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Manny Pacquiao showed Saturday night he's still got plenty of fight for a fighter on the wrong side of 40.

Whether Pacquiao's dominating win over Adrien Broner gets him a rematch with Floyd Mayweather, though, is a question that will have to be answered another night.

With Mayweather watching from ringside, Pacquiao showed flashes of his old speed in winning a unanimous 12-round decision over Broner to easily defend his piece of the welterweight title. It was the 61st win of a remarkable career in which Pacquiao has won titles in eight weight classes.

And it put to rest any thoughts of retirement after 24 years as a pro.

"The Manny Pacquiao journey will still continue," Pacquiao said.

Fighting for the first time at the age of 40, the senator from the Philippines won a lopsided decision that was never in doubt before a crowd that roared at every punch he landed. The decision was never in doubt, but Pacquiao pressed the fight into the later rounds as he tried unsuccessfully to score a knockout.

Two judges favored Pacquiao by a 116-112 score, while the third had it 117-111. The AP scored it a shutout 120-108 for Pacquiao.

There were no knockdowns, but Pacquiao landed the heavier punches — and lots of them. He caught Broner in the seventh and ninth rounds with big left hands that sent him backward, while Broner spent most of the fight looking for one big counter that never came.

"At the age of 40 I can still give my best," Pacquiao said. " Although I wanted to be aggressive more, my camp told me don't be careless and to counter him and wait for opportunities. "

Both fighters were cautious late, as the fight slowed in the final two rounds.

Pacquiao, whose pro career stretches back 24 years, showed he still has the speed that carried him over his spectacular career. He also displayed some power, though he was never able to drop Broner.

Pacquiao was clearly the favorite of the crowd of 13,025, who gathered at the MGM Grand arena to see if the part-time fighter still had some fight in him. Turned out Pacquiao did, and then some as he pushed the attack against Broner.

Pacquiao was the aggressor from the opening bell, and he had to be because Broner threw only occasional punches in the opening rounds. Pacquiao attacked at will, winning round after round before the fight started to heat up in the middle rounds.

Broner, meanwhile, fought like he was merely trying to survive, despite being 11 years younger than his opponent. He was booed loudly as he raised his hands in victory and jumped on the corner ropes as if he had won.

"I beat him, everybody out there knows I beat him," Broner said. "I clearly won the last seven rounds."

Mayweather watched it all intently from his ringside seat, and was coy about possibly coming out of retirement for a reprise of the 2015 lackluster fight Mayweather won by decision over Pacquiao.

"You keep asking me about Manny Pacquiao," Mayweather said during the fight. "He needs to get past Adrien Broner first. And right now I'm living a happy and healthy life."

Showtime announcer Jim Gray tried to get Mayweather to climb in the ring after the fight and discuss a possible bout with Pacquiao, but Mayweather demurred.

It was the first fight in the U.S. in two years for Pacquiao, who reunited with trainer Freddie Roach for a bout that would determine how much he had left at the age of 40.

Turns out he had plenty, in a fight that was entertaining even if it wasn't a classic.

Veterans show way in IT&E Saipan Duathlon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in last Saturday's IT&E 3rd Saipan Duathlon/Sprint Triathlon pose for a group photo at Paupau Beach.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Nap Dizon slows down, as he makes a turn at the bike-run transition area during last Saturday's IT&E 3rd Saipan Duathlon/Sprint Triathlon held at Paupau Beach.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The old-timers led the finishers list of last Saturday's IT&E 3rd Saipan Duathlon/Sprint Triathlon.

In the duathlon, Nap Dizon came out on top of the men's division after completing the 2.5-kilometer run, 15K bike, and 1.5K run (short course) in 1:09:00 or nearly 11 minutes ahead of runner-up Andrew Estepa (1:20:06). Renato Barros rounded out the Top 3 after checking in at 1:23:41.

In the women's field, another veteran, Ayano Braxton, won her one-on-one showdown against Zaiyra Ganacias, as the former reached the finish line at Paupau Beach at the 1:06:41 mark, while the latter registered 1:23:24.

In the long course, which had participants doing a 5K run, 20K bike, and 2.5K run, the returning Kimiko McKagan logged 1:36:11 in the women's field to edge young gun Tania Tan (1:41:11) and Shawn Benfleck. In the men's division, there was only one competitor in Raymund Tolentino, who had the second best time in the entire field after recording 1:19:41.

Krakens had the fastest time in the long course after posting 1:05:49. Cavaliers (1:21:30), Team KV (1:28:35), and Team Japinay were the other entries in the relay division.

Meanwhile, Emily Northrop and Carlo Canepa were the top finishers in the sprint triathlon race.

Northrop completed the 700m swim, 20K bike, and 5K run in 1:19:56 to rule the women's field and beat Robyn Spaeth (1:41:17), Kathy Ruszala (1:45:07), and Janet King (1:45:10). In the men's division, Canepa won against seven others after timing in at 1:21:165. Tyce Mister and Mark Isip made it to the podium after recording 1:22:11 and 1:27:41, while other finishers were Floro Derexes (1:33:21), John Moreno (1:34:32), Robert Torres (1:42:28), Will Ordosgoiti (1:44:38), and Colin Thompson (1:45:09).

The IT&E 3rd Saipan Duathlon/Sprint Triathlon kicked off the Road to Tagaman Race Series. The next leg—IT&E 4th Saipan Aquathlon/10K Run Race—will be held on Feb. 2, while the last—IT&E Sprints and Olympic Distance Triathlon—will take place on March 16.

AGAPE

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With the season nearly entering the playoff phase, teams are gearing up and hoping to finish strong.

"For our team, I think we need to put the work and effort to become stronger and closer," MCS captain Eric Kiser said.

Lady Eagles captain Jasmine Phan echoed Kiser's sentiments: "With this year being my last in CCOPSA, I would like for our team chemistry to be stronger, as this is the final push for the season."

CAROL'S

From Page 28

with school. She also wants to get good grades, so it's very challenging for her to do school and training at the same time," said Dong Min.

Carol is attending an online school after receiving a scholarship from the ITF Pacific Oceania Training Center in Fiji.

'Feeling like a pro'

Carol earned a chance to play in the singles main draw of the Australian Open Juniors Championships after winning a pair of matches in a qualifying tournament last week.

Then in the first round of the main draw, she was paired against world No. 21 and South Korea's Sohyun Park, winning a set before eventually losing the closely fought match, 1-6, 7-5, 4-6, last Saturday. After a slow start, Lee raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set and showed some nerves in the homestretch after Park momentarily grabbed the driver's seat, 5-4, to escape with the win.

In the third set, the CNMI player fought back from 0-4 down and threatened her highly favored foe, 4-5. Lee continued her aggressiveness in the deciding set, but the South Korean regained her lost ground to avoid the former's upset axe.

The Lee-Park match was played right next to the Rod Laver Arena—the venue of prime matches in the pro field of the Australian Open. They were on Court 22 of the huge Melbourne Park.

"Playing in the Australian Open Juniors was a huge new experience for me. It felt like I was a professional player on a court where big crowds were watching me and there were line guys and ball kids. It was so professional," said Lee, the first CNMI player to have played in a Grand Slam competition.

"People were curious where I am from and my coach told me some people in the crowd were asking where the CNMI is. So, I was happy I got people interested in my country and I am happy that I get to introduce my small island to the big world. I feel so proud and I want to fight for every point to win and keep going," said the 17-year-old, who was also scheduled to play in the doubles event yesterday.

Saints-Rams title game a clash of like-minded coaches

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Carol's journey to Grand Slam event

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left photo shows the then 7-yeard-old Carol Lee returning a shot to her foe during a practice match at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. At right, Lee makes a forehand return to South Korea's Sohyun Park during their first round match in the 2019 Australian Open Juniors at the Melbourne Park in Australia last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Proud father, Dong Min Lee, recalled how Carol's journey from the American Memorial Park Tennis courts to the Melbourne Park—the venue of the Australian Open—started.

"She was only 5 when I started to bring her to the AMP court. While I was playing tennis with the adults, she was there with the other kids at the AMP playground, having fun. Then one day, she asked me if I could teach her how to play because she wanted to play tennis, too," Dong Min said.

Once Carol learned the basics, Dong Min approached other players at the AMP courts if they could have a match with the father-and-daughter pair. They obliged, always welcoming the Lees, even though Carol was just a beginner, committing one error after another in every game.

Twelve years later, that 5-year-old newbie managed to play at the Melbourne Park for a Grand Slam event where the world's tennis superstars showcase their talents in front of throngs of adoring fans.

"Until now, I could not believe that Carol can one day play in a Grand Slam event, as she was just curious about the game back then. I would like to thank all the players at the AMP courts for giving Carol the opportunity to play with them even though she was not that good back then. They helped make Carol a very good player. They are part of Carol's successful journey," Dong Min said.

"In Korea, if you approach an adult or a very good player, they will not let you play with them, especially if you are new to tennis. At AMP, they are very welcoming— they are family. We are very lucky to have the AMP courts where we can play for free and bring our kids and teach them to play," he added.

Carol's father also acknowledged the following individuals for helping her daughter compete in off-island tournaments, particularly in the ITF Juniors: Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's Jeff Race, Oceania Tennis Federation president Cyrille Mainguy, ITF technic director Dermot Sweeney, ITF Pacific Oceania Training Center director Roxanne Clarke, ITF development officer to Pacific Oceania Gary Purcell, and ITF development manager (tennis center) Frank Couraud.

"Without these people from ITF and support from NMITA, Carol will not be able to go to ITF Juniors and compete in a Grand Slam event for the first time," Dong Min said.

Lee added that playing in ITF Juniors event taught Carol a lot and she hopes that his daughter will use her last season in the circuit to reach her full potential.

"Even though Carol is in the Top 200 in the world (No. 152), she can still improve more. I know she wants to really push herself, but she does not want to sacrifice her time

See CAROL'S on Page 26

Agape gets first win; GCA, SIS 1 prevail

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Agape Christian School bagged its first win of the season after sweeping Saipan International School 2, while Grace Christian Academy and SIS 1 went the distance against their respective foes in the girls division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association High School Volleyball League last Friday.

Agape hosted SIS 2 at its court in Gualo Rai and got the victory after two tightly contested sets, 25-23, 25-22. Over at the Mt. Carmel School's grass field in Chalan Kanoa, MCS JV put up a fight over the Lady Eagles, but the latter still came out on top, 25-8, 24-26, 15-7.

At the SIS court in As Lito, SIS 1 also needed three sets to thwart MCS's varsity squad, 25-17, 22-25, 17-19. One more match was played in As Lito with the Geckos beating the MCS Knights, 25-16, 25-20, in their boys division match. With the win, the Geckos improved their record to 2-0, MCS has yet to secure a victory after five games in the regular season.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Saipan International School 1's Maury Zon Tybaco serves during their game against Mt. Carmel School JV in the girls division of the CCOPSA volleyball league last week at the SIS court in As Lito.

Meanwhile, league organizers will push through with the final set of games under the original schedule for the regular season this Wednesday, while they will be coordinating with the participating schools for the make-up games that may be extended to early next week.

"We are ironing out the schedule of some make-up games and the standings," CCOPSA Sports Committee chair John Blanco said. "Most likely we will finalize the playoff dates and times by Monday or Tuesday (Jan. 21 or 22) based on the submission of score cards and records by the respective schools."

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